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for Delmarva History and Culture
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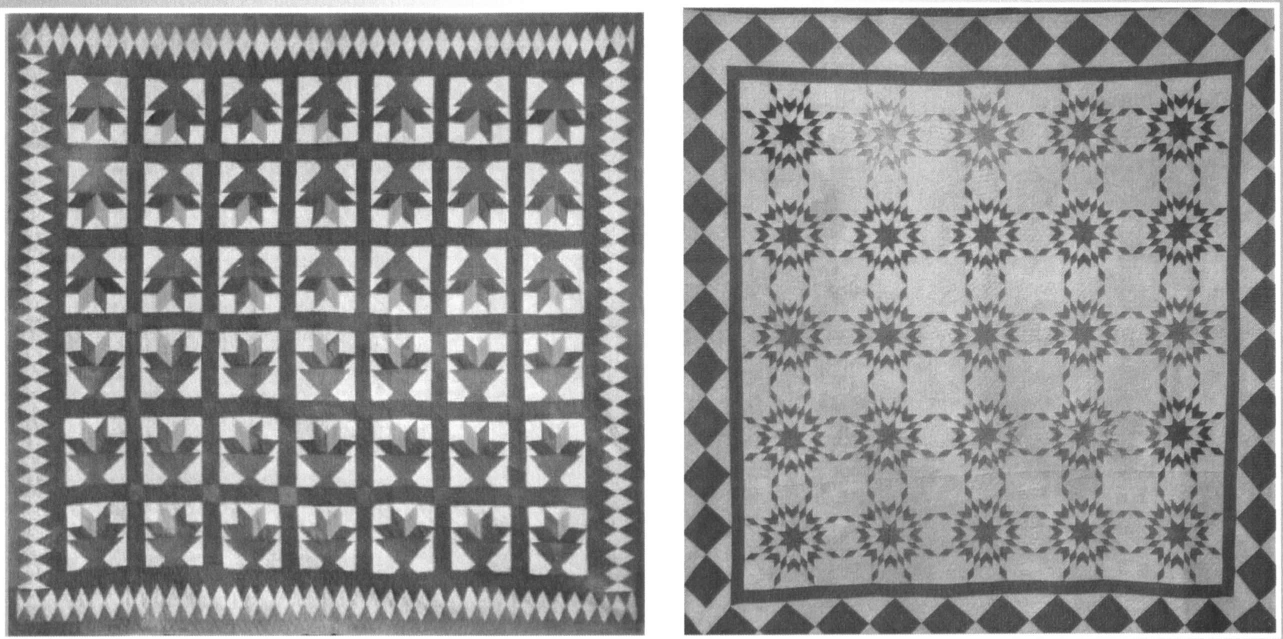
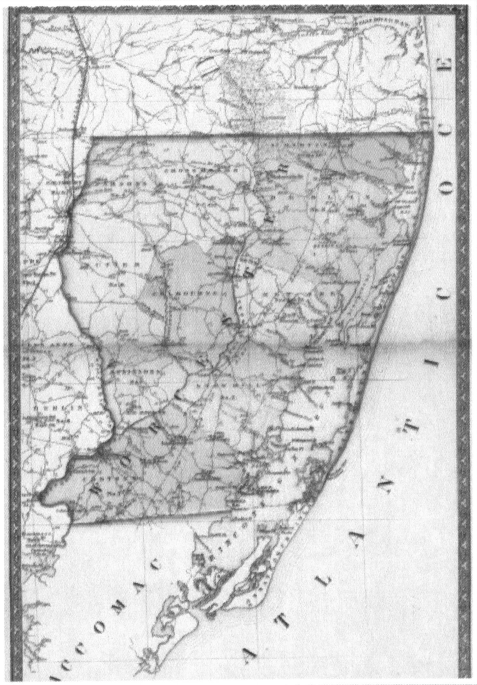
Shoreline

Vol. 24 • Summer/Fall 2017
For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University



Piecing It All Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore

New Digital Relationships



Mapping Worcester County: 1835

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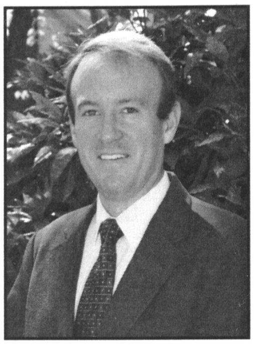
From the Director's Chair

By Dr. Creston Long,
Nabb Research Center Director



Dr. Creston Long

About a year ago we moved into the new Nabb Center facility. For those of you who have already visited us, you know that our new home is an outstanding research facility and a real tribute to the importance of preserving Delmarva history and culture. I invite all of you who have not yet stopped in to come see us. All our collections, including our family history sources, are in order and ready for use in the Carey Family Research Room and our fall exhibits are open.

I thank the Nabb Center Board for organizing the annual fundraiser at historic Harrington in Somerset County. We owe a special thank you to Regina Bell for so graciously opening her home for the event. It was a beautiful setting to celebrate our region's past and to support the Nabb Center's efforts to study and preserve our history. A special moment occurred when Mike Hitch, Nabb Board president, unveiled a portrait of Nabb Center co-founder and past director Ray Thompson. The portrait now hangs in the G. Ray Thompson Conference Room inside the Nabb Center.

The spring and summer have been exceptionally busy here at the Nabb Center. We returned to our typical schedule of public events. Highlights included the opening reception for the "When Communities Come Together: African American Education on the Eastern Shore" in February and a presentation in early May on the historical idea of a state of Delmarva. During the summer we hosted a week-long Maryland Humanities institute for teachers interested in developing History Day projects in the upcoming school year. Teachers from as far away as Montgomery, Howard and Baltimore counties learned about our collections and developed projects that incorporate our sources. We also have been developing a number of new initiatives here at the Center, including a research project on colonial roads, led by Aaron Horner. Aaron's article provides some details about his methodology and his progress. We also have begun a new video project highlighting sources in our collections. Leslie McRoberts, local history archivist, has produced the first video in this series; her article outlines the goals of this initiative and describes the content of the pilot video.

Looking to the future, I want to highlight a couple of activities that are coming up this fall. On August 28 we opened our quilting exhibit: "Piecing it all Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore." The exhibit features quilts from the Nabb Center collection along with brief histories of each work. Our feature event for the exhibit is on Saturday, November 4, when Jenny Garwood from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, presents a lecture on the quilting tradition in Maryland. She also leads attendees in a quilt turning involving other quilts in the Nabb Center collection. Another exhibit goes up in the new SU Gallery on the Downtown Plaza in mid-September. We are presenting an exhibit on work on Delmarva from the late-1800s through the mid-1900s to accompany the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, "The Way We Worked." This exhibit is supported by a grant from Maryland Humanities. Please take a look at the events section of the *Shoreline* for other presentations.

Another initiative that we are looking forward to launching this fall is a new oral history project. In my first year as Nabb Center director, it has become clear that there are countless individuals with living memories of historical changes here on Delmarva. Many people have performed work that has passed out of common practice now, others remember towns or cities that have undergone changes in the past decades, and some have been part of major events that either happened on Delmarva or were connected to national or world events. Our goal is to capture these memories in oral history interviews and to archive them in our collection. We also are re-processing some of the oral histories that already exist in our archive. Over time, we expect to use interviews as the basis for online and physical exhibits. As we move forward with this project I anticipate reaching out to you, our members, for ideas for project themes and possibly for interviews. The new Oral History Project will open up an exciting, new dimension in the Nabb Center's work.

Submissions

The Nabb Research Center is always interested in articles on the history, culture or heritage of the Delmarva region. If you or anyone you know is interested in writing for *Shoreline*, please send material, proposals, suggestions or comments to the attention of the "Newsletter Editor" as follows:

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Salisbury, MD 21801-6860

Or by email to nabbcenter@salisbury.edu. Please include the words "Newsletter Editor" in the subject line.

Hours & Closings

READING ROOM HOURS:
Monday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS:
November 22-25
December 23-January 1

Shoreline

Contents…

4 . . . .*Piecing It All Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore*

5 . . . .*Highlights at the Nabb Center: New Online Video Series*

6 . . . . *Honors Class Focuses on Local Colonial History*

7 . . . .*New Digital Relationships*

8 . . . .*History of Salisbury, MD*

10 . . .*Colonial Roads Project*

12 . . .*Mapping Worcester County: 1835*

14 . . .*Mrs. Mary Roberta Kiah*

16 . . .*Harrington House Event*

18 . . .*A Man, a Plan a Canal: Digging into the Enterprise of John L. Jaques and the Hurley's Neck Ditch*

23 . . .*Congratulations to Ray Thompson*

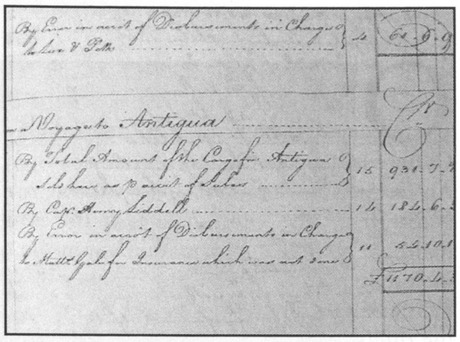
23 . . .*Volunteers*

24 . . .*Womanpower in Education, the Eisenhower Era and Beyond: The Winifred Helmes Papers*

25 . . .*Farewell to Graduate Assistant Joel Henry*

26 . . .*Upcoming Events and Exhibits*

27 . . .*Donors & Members*



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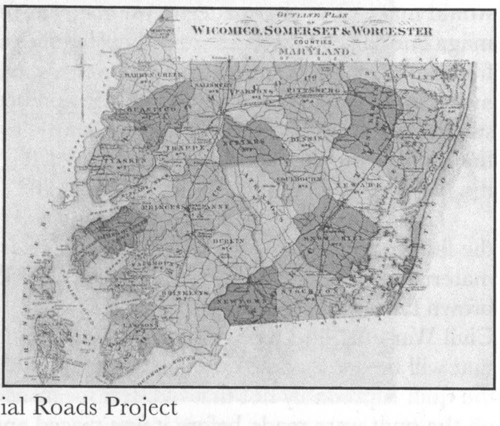
Highlights at the Nabb Center:
New Online Video Series



10

Colonial Roads Project

24

Womanpower in Education,
the Eisenhower Era and Beyond:
The Winifred Helmes Papers

Volume 24 • Summer/Fall 2017

Director, Creston Long. *Local History Archivist,* Leslie McRoberts. *Administrative Assistant,* Donna T. Messick. *Archival Assistant,* Barbara Weiss. *Curator,* Janie Kreines. *Graduate Assistant,* Margaret Long. *Receptionist,* Nicole Rogers. *Research Assistant,* T. Aaron Horner. *SU Archivist,* Ian Post.

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Piecing It All Together:

Quilts of the Eastern Shore

By Janie Kreines

Opening in August 2017, *Piecing It All Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore*, will be the third exhibit on display in the changing Thompson Gallery located on the fourth floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons (GAC). Featuring quilts from the Nabb Research Center collection, the exhibit will highlight technical information about the quilts, including pattern names, the number of stitches per inch and types of fabric, as well as the history behind the quilts.

The quilts reveal the creativity, preparation and care that went into designing the patterns. Quilters would make their own patterns, use patterns from magazines or borrow ones from their families and friends. The level of talent and experience can be seen in the intricacy of the patterns and the number of stitches per inch the maker sewed by hand – the greater the number, the higher the quality. One of the quilts in the Nabb collection has 12 stitches per inch!

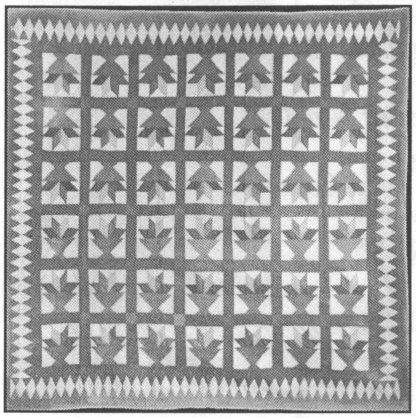
Experts can date quilts by examining several attributes of the fabric used to make the quilt. Certain colors, patterns and material were created during specific time periods. For example, brown fabric with a paisley pattern was very common during the Civil War era. This type of fabric was used in one of the quilts that will be on display. Although this fabric dates to this period, the quilt is probably not that old. It appears as though the stars on the quilt were made before it was pieced and quilted. It is possible that a family member found the stars and finished the process at a much later date.

Quilt makers commonly kept a bag of fabric scraps that could be used to make a quilt in the future or to fill in spaces when they ran out of a particular fabric. Many women would keep a book of quilt squares to use as patterns for future quilts or to share with others in the community. Eventually those squares might be sewn together to make a full quilt.

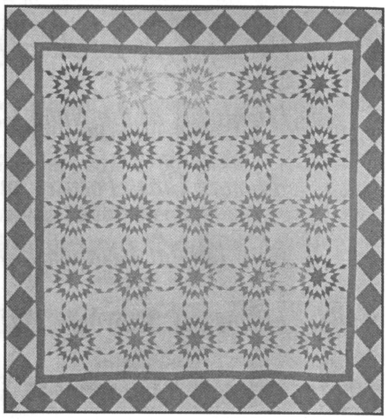
These quilts come to life when we know who made them, where the makers lived and what they may have been doing when they made these quilts. The quilts on display come from a variety of families on the Eastern Shore, including the Lankford, Hargis, White and Adkins families. Unfortunately, while some quilts were passed down through generations, the actual makers are sometimes unknown. The Nabb Research Center quilts will be on display through December 22.

While quilts from the past are interesting and beautiful, the tradition of making quilts lives on. There are many quilt guilds, groups that gather together to share their passion for quilting, around the world, including the Eastern Shore of Maryland. We hope visitors will return to the exhibit to see quilts on loan from a variety of quilt guilds around the Eastern Shore – on display February 5-May 31, 2018.

The Nabb Research Center will also be hosting a program on Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Guerrieri Academic Commons featuring Jenny Garwood from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The program will include a presentation titled "Maryland Quilts in the MESDA Collection," a quilt turning including quilts from the Nabb Research Center collection and a second presentation titled "Maryland Samplers in the Chesapeake Tradition." The event is free and open to the public and will include light refreshments.



Flower Basket Quilt ca 1875-1900, unknown maker



Touching Stars Quilt ca 1840, made by Hargis family of Somerset County, MD

In addition to the quilt exhibit on the fourth floor, the Library hosts an exhibit on the first floor of the GAC – "Our Transdisciplinary World: Technology, Science and the Humanities." This exhibit will highlight some of the ways in which technology is being developed and utilized on the Salisbury University campus. It will include a section developed by librarians Chris Woodall and Angeline Prichard on 3D printing in the MakerLab located in the GAC, a section about a software program developed by math professor Randy Cone that analyzes the emotional content of Shakespearean plays, and a third section on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) developed by geography professor Michael Scott. This exhibit will include interactive digital displays and information about how to get some hands-on experience with these technological developments. It will be on display August 28-December 22.

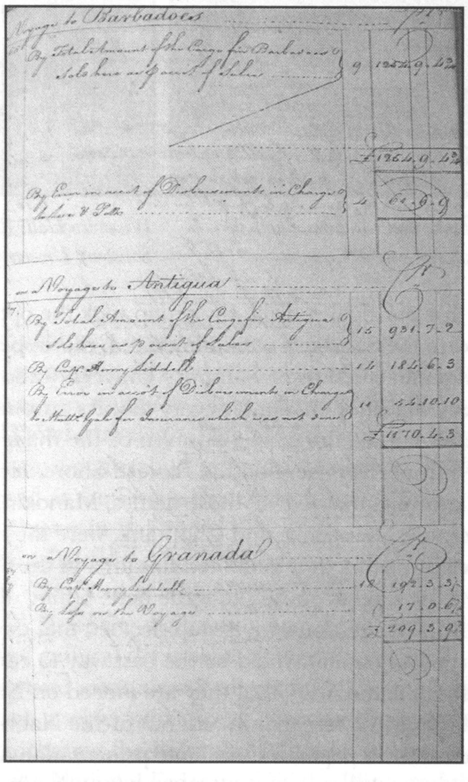
The Nabb Research Center will also be working with the Salisbury University Art Gallery and other local organizations to provide local stories and artifacts to supplement the Smithsonian exhibit "The Way We Worked" that will be on display at the Salisbury Art Gallery in downtown Salisbury September 15-November 4. Join us downtown on Friday, September 15, for the opening event during 3rd Friday!

Janie Kreines is the Exhibits and Artifacts Curator at the Nabb Research Center.

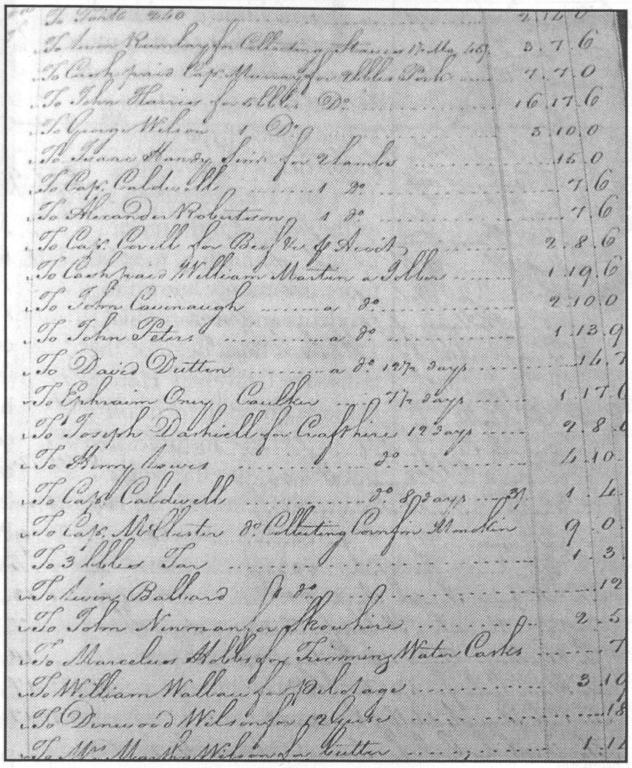
Highlights at the Nabb Center:

New Online Video Series

By Leslie McRoberts



Page from brig Peggy *ledger showing trips to Barbadoes, Antigua and Granada.*



Page from brig Peggy *ledger listing some of the customers, merchandise and prices.*

Bob Marley once said: "If you know your history, you know where you came from." The Nabb Research Center has been providing Delmarva with our region's stories for 35 years. As we move forward, we wanted to bring some of the collections to our patrons in a new format.

Our mission is to provide access to the rich cultural history of Delmarva to all people. Pages of manuscript records and photographic prints along with associated artifacts housed in our repository document our personal and collective history. Recently, the Center's collections staff, including Exhibits and Artifacts Curator Janie Kreines, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian Ian Post, and Local History Archivist Leslie Van Veen McRoberts, have sought ways to bring these stories to life in a video format, not necessarily an easy challenge when one specific item of thousands has to be selected for research and turned into a short documentary. Nonetheless, these videos will give the collections staff an opportunity to share jewels within our repository as well as giving our viewing patrons the ability to discover the unique stories hidden behind the archives' doors.

This fall, we will be premiering a video series titled "Highlights at the Nabb Center." The series will feature selected documents, photographs or artifacts, including a brief history and an explanation of their significance to our collection and how we acquired the material. YouTube will host the videos, which will be posted to the Nabb Research Center's website and various social media outlets, including the Center's Facebook page.

The first video in the series features a mid-18th century log record from the brig *Peggy*. The *Peggy* was a trade ship that was owned by three Somerset County men, Henry Liddel, Henry Jackson and Levin Gale. The merchant vessel sailed from the Wicomico River to the Caribbean with goods including ducks, geese, tobacco and Indian corn. Returning from the islands, the *Peggy* hauled over 800 casks of rum, in addition to barrels of limes and molasses, which were then distributed to local merchants.

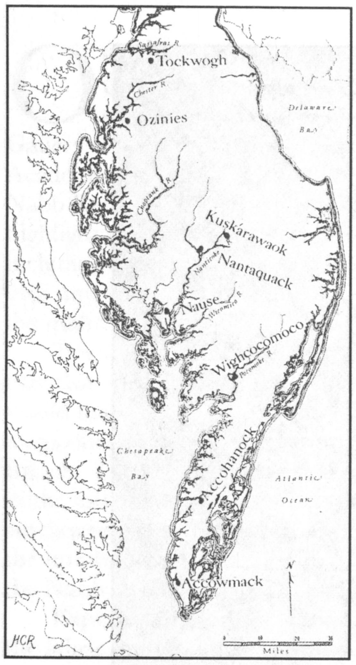
At times, our region is thought of as isolated. This ledger, however, demonstrates that Delmarva had strong and ongoing economic connections to the greater Atlantic World. In U.S. history textbooks, students read about the famed triangular trade of the colonial-era Atlantic World. The *Peggy* ledger gives us a detail-rich example of how this trade network connected with our region.

As the video series develops, we hope to open doors to little-known components within our collections, whether it be through discussing a single artifact or exploring the entirety of a manuscript collection.

Leslie McRoberts is the Local History Archivist at the Nabb Research Center.

Honors Class Focuses on Local Colonial History

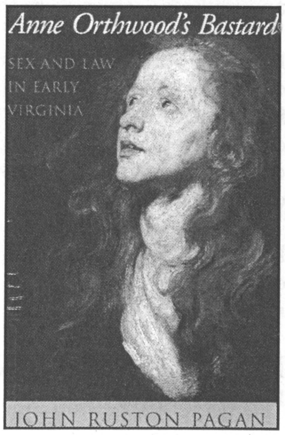
By Jaclyn Laman



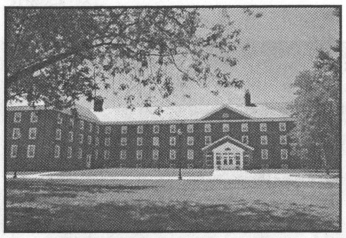
Map of Eastern Shore Indian settlements known to Captain John Smith (1608). Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland. *Helen C. Rountree and Thomas E. Davidson*

The Eastern Shore is full of history and hardly anywhere is that more prevalent than in the Edward H. Nabb Research Center. While some of the more industrial developments of the 19th and 20th centuries, such as the seafood industry or poultry production, may be more commonly known to residents and visitors alike, Dr. James Buss, dean of the Salisbury University Honors College, chose to focus on another era of history when partnering with the Nabb Research Center for an Honors course he has taught for the past two years. Dr. Buss' class – titled Sex, Race and Violence in the Chesapeake – centers on the early beginnings of the Eastern Shore as a colony of England.

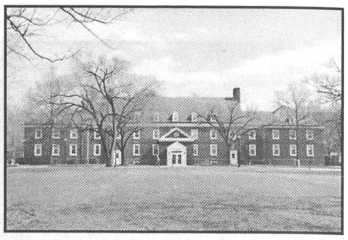
In this course, we covered topics ranging from court cases involving "bastard" children, indentured servants, African Americans and the many roles they played, and Native American interactions. As someone who has lived on the Eastern Shore for over eight years, I was excited to take this class to see what new things I could discover, not only about the Shore, but society as a whole in the 17th and 18th centuries. The fact that there was only one grade in the class, which would be the grade for the final project, made me nervous, but it was exciting to challenge myself and dive into the archives that intrigued me since before I was even a student at the university.



After spending some time in the classroom reading books such as John Ruston Pagan's *Anne Orthwood's Bastard: Sex and Law in Early Virginia,* we headed up to the fourth floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons to the new location of the Nabb Research Center. Dr. Buss left it up to us to decide what topics to focus on as well as the format of the final project itself. We were also able to work in groups, which took a large weight off of all our shoulders and, in my opinion, made the projects stronger.



Nanticoke Hall: Residence hall on Salisbury University campus



Wicomico Hall: Residence hall on Salisbury University campus

For our final project, my group took the opportunity to educate the Salisbury community and, more specifically, the faculty and students of Salisbury University about a feature of history that they encounter every day. As anyone who tours the campus knows, the names of seven of the main dormitories are taken from rivers here on the Eastern Shore. However, what is less known is that five of those names, Manokin, Wicomico, Pocomoke, Nanticoke and Choptank, were the names of Native American tribes that inhabited this area in the 17th century when the English started to settle here. Going off of one of Dr. Buss' suggestions, my group decided that developing an informative exhibit would be the best way to educate the Salisbury community that they are indeed on Native American land. Hours of research in and out of the Nabb Center, a 20-page research paper, a six-minute presentation and plenty of preparation later, we are steps away from having an actual exhibit, which is scheduled to be featured on the first floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons in spring 2018.

"The Original Residents" marker at Pemberton Park Historic Trail

In addition to my group's exhibit on local Native American tribes and their interactions with the English colonists, two groups chose to write articles on law and women's roles, respectively. Other final projects included an exhibit on the roles of African Americans during this time and a historical marker for the Tundotank Reservation, which was home to the Wicomico tribe over 300 years ago and is located less than a mile south of the Salisbury University campus. So much time was spent by all five groups inside the Nabb Center looking at court records, primary and secondary books, microfilm, maps and so much more.

The best part of this Honors class, in my opinion, was the fact that the knowledge we acquired not only benefitted ourselves, but also the local community. I truly cannot wait to see how our finished projects benefit the greater Salisbury community, and the Nabb Center had a massive part in this. I, for one, cannot stay away from this incredibly amazing center and plan to take part in what they have to offer for years to come.

Jaclyn Laman is now a sophomore enrolled in the Honors College at Salisbury University.

New Digital Relationships

By Leslie McRoberts

Fall 2016 brought new opportunities for the Nabb Research Center; not only did we have a new facility, we had the chance to create/ establish our first digital partnership with Digital Maryland. Digital Maryland is a free state-wide collaborative digitization program that began in 2002 and is headquartered at the Enoch Pratt Free Library/State Library Resource Center in Baltimore.

Linda Tompkins-Baldwin, Digital Maryland coordinator, led a presentation and conversation with Nabb Center staff on how their mission, to "facilitate the digitization and digital exhibition of the historical and cultural documents, images, audio and video held by Maryland institutions," allows for a greater scope of materials to reach a wider audience. Collections from other state repositories, including the Baltimore Museum of Art, Goucher College, the National Federation of the Blind and the United States Naval Academy, are available on the Digital Maryland website.

Over the years, the Nabb Center has accumulated several notable photograph collections that capture life on Delmarva. Among these collections are the works of renowned local photographer and photojournalist Orlando Wootten (1907-1997). We chose 100 of his prints documenting the social and cultural fabric of the land and water for the Nabb Center's "pilot" project with Digital Maryland.

The photographs were taken to Enoch Pratt, where they were digitized and corresponding information was added; the process took approximately two and a half months from start to finish.

We are pleased to establish this new relationship with Digital Maryland, which will bring the collections of the Nabb Center to interested patrons near and far. We look forward to continuing this relationship by adding more collections from our Local History Archive and University Archives and Special Collections.

Be sure to visit the website to see the assortment of items relating to Maryland's history: www.digitalmaryland.org.

Leslie McRoberts is the Local History Archivist at the Nabb Research Center.

Trap Pond State Park, Sussex County, DE. Photo by Orlando Wootten.

Skipjack Mary W. Somers. Photo by Orlando Wootten.

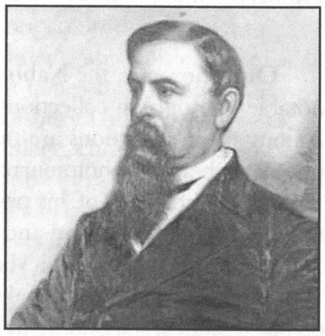
History of Salisbury, MD

By John E. Jacob

In the last several editions of Shoreline, *we have published excerpts of Salisbury historian John Jacob's* History of Salisbury. *For this edition, we bring you portions of a chapter that focuses on the development of Wicomico County. The 150th anniversary of the creation of the county is marked in 2017. Mr. Jacob's research on Salisbury spanned several decades of work. His notes are all available at the Nabb Research Center. We also hope to post a digital version of his book on our website in the near future.*

1866-1867

Formation of the New County



Thomas Swann 1809-1883: Oil on canvas by Florence MacKurbin Archives of Maryland Biographical Series MSA SC 3520-1464

Thomas Swann was elected governor under the new Maryland constitution of 1864 and took his oath of office on 11 January 1865, but did not actually become governor until Governor Bradford's term expired on 10 January 1866. Swann had been elected on the Union party ticket.

When Swann became governor the radical Republicans thought he would follow the policies of his predecessor. Instead he broke with the Radicals and joined with the Democrats in an all-out effort to eliminate the registration laws and the loyalty oath. At the election held on 8 November 1866 the Conservatives won control of the Legislature and that led to a call for a new constitutional convention.

Constitutional Convention of 1867

The Radicals boycotted the election of delegates to the constitutional convention and consequently only Democrats were elected. The vote for the convention was 34,534 in favor and 24,136 against. Swann issued his proclamation for the convention to meet on 8 May 1867.

The delegates from Somerset were Isaac D. Jones and Henry Page from Princess Anne, James L. Horsey from Marion Station, Thomas F. J. Rider of Quantico and Purnell Toadvine of Salisbury. From Worcester the delegates were: Littleton P. Franklin from Berlin, Thomas P. Parker from Snow Hill, Samuel S. McMaster from Pocomoke, George W. Covington from Snow Hill, and Joseph Hopkins Tarr from Salisbury. Tarr and Rider were both attorneys and Toadvine a retired merchant. Rider and Toadvine had both been former members of the Legislature. Toadvine was a former Whig and Know Nothing and was now a Democrat.

On the fifth day of the Convention, Tarr introduced a resolution which was passed directing the appointment of a committee to "inquire into the propriety of creating out of the counties of Somerset and Worcester a new county, and to report to the Convention thereupon."

Too little has been said about the role Toadvine played in the convention. Both Tarr and Rider were fine public speakers, but Toadvine was a wheeler-dealer who operated behind the scene. He was wealthy and could afford the fine dinner, the good cigar, the excellent brandy that vote getting required. He worked the older generation, and it was probably he who arranged the representation on the committee that resulted in the favorable vote for the new county of six to five.

Toadvine left the speechmaking and filing of petitions in the hands of the lawyers, but I will wager that it was Toadvine and his cronies that collected the majority of the names signed to the petitions. They all worked to defeat the motion to require all the voters of both counties to vote on the referendum for the new county, and limited it to those who lived within the areas of both counties that would be included in Wicomico. They had, however, to win a majority in the areas of each county that would become Wicomico.

Finally, the motion to create Wicomico County came to a vote on 14 August 1867, and won with a majority in the convention of 73 to 30.

The description of the proposed county in Article XIII Section 2 of the constitution is as follows: "Beginning at the point where Mason and Dixon's line crosses the channel of Pocomoke River, thence following said line to the channel of the Nanticoke River, thence with the channel of said River to Tangier Sound, or the intersection of the Nanticoke and Wicomico Rivers, thence up the channel of the Wicomico River to the mouth of Wicomico Creek, thence with the channel of said Creek and Passerdike Creek to Dashiell or Disharoon's Mills, thence with the mill pond of said mills and branch following the middle prong of said Branch to Meadow Bridge, on the road dividing the Counties of Somerset and Worcester, near the southwest corner of the farm of William P. Morris, thence due east to the Pocomoke River, thence with the channel of said River to the beginning."

The battle had been won in the Convention. Now the scene of the war shifted to the districts of each county that were in the areas to be included in the new county. This meant Barren Creek, Quantico, Tyaskin, Salisbury and Trappe from Somerset; and Parsons, Pittsburg, Nutters and what is now Dennis district in Worcester.

The date of the referendum was set for 25 September and with only a month to go the campaign got to white heat immediately. There were amusing incidents that occurred and they are described as they originally appeared in print in the *Salisbury Advertiser.*

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Mason Dixon boundary marker

"All of the areas voting in Wicomico were in favor except Tyaskin. They gave hostile demonstrations to advocates of the new county. Upon one instance the Salisbury Brass Band in all its glory accompanied our advocates to the sandy hills of the Nanticoke. At the meeting our speakers were up against a strong antagonism which as soon as the Salisbury Brass Band struck up made itself forcibly felt. Our advocates were compelled ignominiously to retire from the locality. Shortly afterward Professor Higginbotham, the bandmaster, composed a lively spirited march which was ever a favorite with the band. It was called the 'Sand Flea Retreat'."

"The contest was so bitter and exciting that at many meetings physical encounters were not infrequent. Where appeal to reason was unavailing both sides had their strong men forcibly impress their arguments upon the voter's minds."

"At Crossroads, now Pittsville, the advocates of the new county were notified that no meeting could be held there. Realizing that sentiment was against them, they were in a quandary, but some bright mind conceived the idea that they might prevail upon their opponents by force. On the appointed day for the meeting a number of noted fighting men from the swamps of Delaware quietly drifted into the village causing much conjecture. They were clad in rough, simple homespun, and apparently were disinterested observers of the day's proceedings. Surely enough a threat to break up the meeting was attempted; but the simple, quiet Delawareans entered into the scrimmage. Peace was restored and the meeting proceeded. As quietly as they had appeared the company of Delawareans returned to the swamp. But at the election that district gave a fair majority for the new county."

"At one gathering in Delmar, a speaker (Frank Todd) was haranguing the crowd from the top of a flour barrel. He was heckled by a voice from the floor. To drive home his point, he stamped his foot. The next thing he knew he had crashed through the barrel head, the emphasis of his gesture successfully breaking up the meeting."

At the referendum the Somerset portion approved the new county by 724 to 526, and the Worcester portion gave approval by a majority of 177 votes. So on 5 October 1867 Wicomico became a county, but with no elected officials to run it.

The New County

The election of officials was held on 5 November 1867 with the terms to begin officially in January 1868. The officials could not afford to wait, and did not. As soon as their "commissions were sent down by Governor Swann on 23 November 1867 they were sworn in and got to work."

There were some real problems apart from the case of getting to the new county seat. The Convention delegates had had to agree that every bit of the property that had belonged to Somerset or Worcester would remain theirs. This included all the school buildings in Wicomico; the schoolbooks, supplies and furniture. It meant all road building equipment; tools, animals and other supplies. In addition the people who had become Wicomicoans were to remain liable on their share of any bonded indebtedness of their former county. They were starting the new county with zero assets. They had no leases on office space. They had no money to buy the books, pens, paper, desks and chairs needed to make the space operable. They had no money to meet a payroll.

The Wicomicoans had only duties and obligations; the duty to provide schools, teachers, blackboards and benches; the duty to maintain and repair the roads and to keep the ferries running. They had the duty to lease space, hire employees, buy animals and feed for them; and all with no local bank to borrow from. The need for deficit financing was real and immediate.

The County Commissioners met with Rufus R. Truitt and rented from him the second floor of his building known as the Odd Fellows Building, and signed the lease the first day they were official. This space was to be used for the Clerk of Court, the Register of Wills and the offices and employees of the County Commissioners.

The Commissioners also rented the second floor of the Jackson Building for the courtroom, jury rooms and judges' chambers. This was not needed until 8 January 1868, but the terms of the lease required the county to pay for all the alterations and partitions required. The rent was $100 per year on the Jackson building, payable in semi-annual installments; while on the Odd Fellows building, Rufus Truitt got $185 for a year's rent. Both leases were for as long as the space was required, but each provided for six months' notice in the event of cancellation.

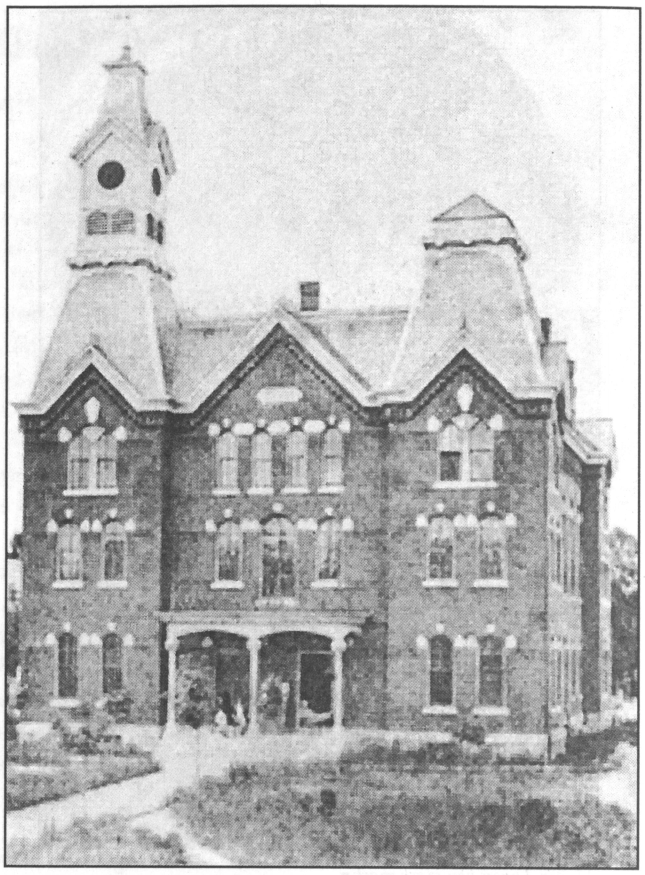
The two buildings were across the street from each other which was as close as the new county could make it; the Jackson Building was at the corner of Main and Dock Streets, the Odd Fellows Building was across the street on the north side of Main.

The first estate recorded for a deceased person in Wicomico County was that of Hugh Covington; it was opened on 11 December 1867. The first will was recorded on 22 December, and was that of our old friend, Annice F. Williams. William Birckhead had the Register of Wills office open and running, and George W. Woolford was sworn in as Chief Judge with William Laws and George W. Robertson as Associate Judges and they were sitting.

Thomas F. J. Rider was the Clerk of Court, and he recorded his first deed on 15 November 1867, eight days before his commission was received.

The Wicomico Circuit Court did not get under way until January when the clerk presented his bond, and the Judges presented their papers making the Court official. Henry J. Brewington was appointed Court Crier, and John D. Truitt and William Humphreys became the Bailiffs. Since the next state election was six years away, the first officers were all elected to serve six years from 14 November 1867.

And so it was. In 1867 John Caldwell's hope that Salisbury would become a county seat was finally fulfilled - after a delay of 135 years, and the town was no longer a town divided.

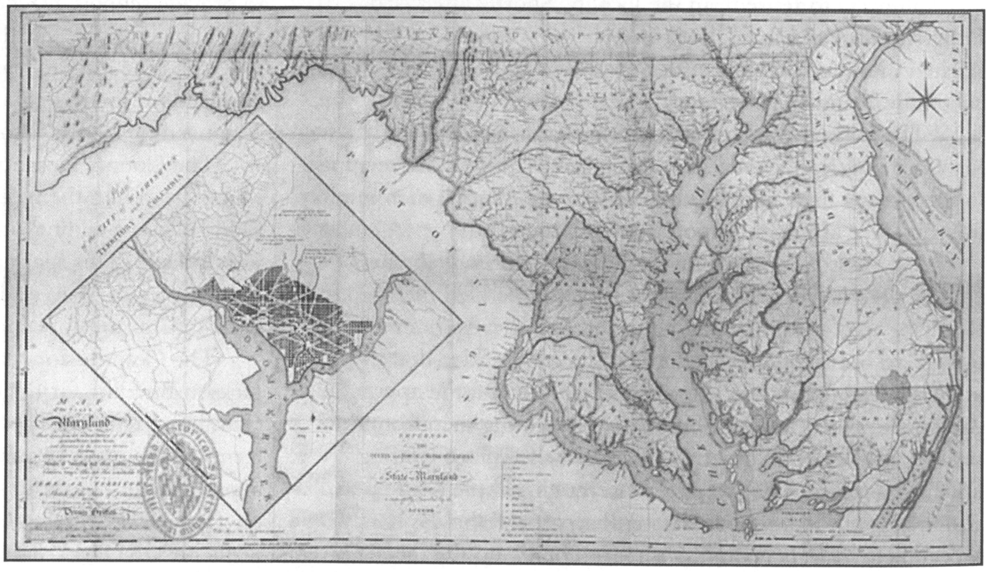


Wicomico County Courthouse

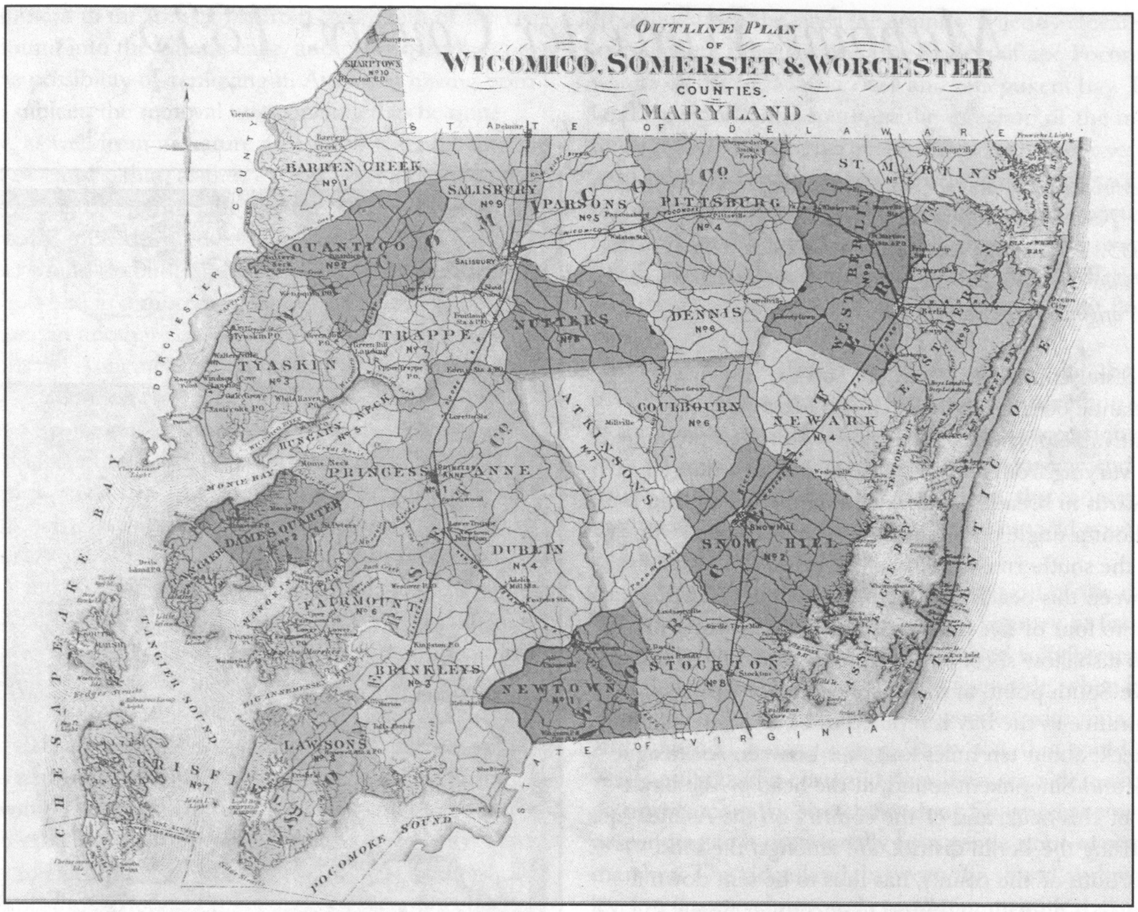
Colonial Roads Project

By Aaron Horner

This past spring, I began research on a new project that will hopefully reveal some interesting transportation patterns from the past. The purpose of this project is to identify where the earliest roads in Old Somerset County were located and to see how closely the present-day road system aligns with them. As our society moved away from the horse and wagon to the automobile, the road system evolved from a network of often-changing trails and rudimentary roads to a system suitable for modern transportation. As simple as this project may seem, the challenges ahead involve much more work than simply re-drawing lines on a map.



Map of the State of Maryland, 1794 by Dennis Griffith


Outline Plan of
WICOMICO, SOMERSET & WORCESTER
COUNTIES,
MARYLAND.
STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE OF VIRGINIA
BARREN CREEK
SALISBURY
PARSONS
PITTSBURG
ST. MARTINS
QUANTICO
TRAPPE
NUTTERS
DENNIS
BERLIN
TYASKIN
HUNGARY NECK
PRINCESS ANNE
ATKINSONS
COULBOURN
NEWARK
DAMES QUARTER
DUBLIN
SNOW HILL
FAIRMOUNT
BRINKLEYS
STOCKTON
NEWTOWN
LAWSONS
CRISFIELD
CHESAPEAKE BAY
TANGIER SOUND
POCOMOKE SOUND
DORCHESTER COUNTY
ATLANTIC OCEAN

The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland

Many colonial and early American-era researchers have overlooked the origins of Delmarva's road network, often focusing instead on the region's many waterways. Historically, roads played a major role in the growth and development of the shore. The first roads appeared in Somerset County as early as the 1670s; however, it is uncertain how the early roads were established. Some likely followed along old Indian trails, while in other cases, settlers appeared to have constructed roads in areas of low vegetation, thus requiring little labor. As one might imagine, these roads often consisted of minimally improved surfaces and, unlike our modern highway systems today, they often had many twists and turns. As the population continued to grow, settlers created more and more roads. Because the early roads usually did not follow along property lines, conflicts over rights-of-way often wound up in court. The resulting judicial records offer us some of the best insights into the early road network as settlement advanced into the 18th century.

Like the boundaries defining the colonial-era "hundreds," descriptions of the original roads were very vague. There are no known plats, or any drawing whatsoever, showing the exact courses and distances of these roads. Even maps of colonial Maryland show few, if any, roads. Our best information for this period is the Somerset County Judicial Records. These records are rich with evidence identifying individuals who either petitioned for the establishment of a road or asked to "turn" the road due to the "inconvenience" it imposed on the property owner. These records also show the appointment of an overseer of the roads, often describing the "bounds" or "limitations" an individual would supervise. By the early 19th century, documentation of roads had become much better. Somerset County officials began to record road surveys in their deed books, often with an accompanying plat.

Two major mapping sources for this project will be Dennis Griffith's *Map of the State of Maryland* (1794) and *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Another source this project will utilize is Google Earth, which will allow us to see from above what one cannot see at the surface. From this vantage point, roads that were abandoned up to 200 years ago can still be detected. Once all of the data has been compiled from the various sources, the project will use a mapping program called DeedMapper to plot out the roads. We expect this project to add a significant new dimension to our historical understanding of the region.

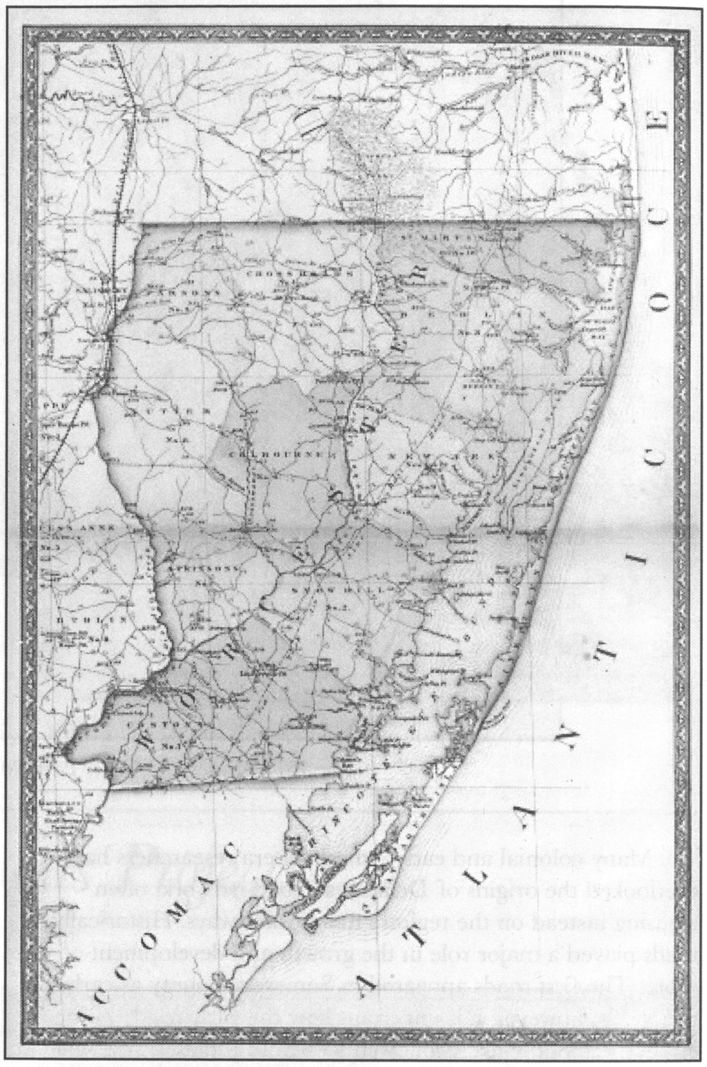
Aaron Horner is the Research Assistant at the Nabb Research Center.

Mapping Worcester County: 1835

The following article about Worcester County, Maryland, is from the book Report on the New Map of Maryland *by John Henry Alexander published in 1835. The article is excerpted from the chapter "Report of the Geologist" by Julius Timoleon Ducatel. The spelling and capitalization have been left as originally written.*

Worcester county … is bordered on the east by the Atlantic ocean; but between this ocean and the cultivable portions of the county there is a prolonged sandy beach, varying from a few hundred yards to a quarter of a mile and upwards in breadth, and extending the whole length of the coast without a single outlet to the sea, from Indian river, in Delaware, to the southern extremity of Chincoteague island in Virginia. Between this beach and the main land lies Sinepuxent bay, from one to four or five miles wide, and nearly thirty miles in length. It is a shallow sheet of water, navigable only to a short distance above South point, at the lower end of Sinepuxent neck. The entrance to the bay is reputed to be also very shallow. Sinepuxent neck, about ten miles long, lies between Assateague or Trap creek and Sinepuxent sound, at the head of the bay. The produce of this neck, and of the country on the Assateague, which, comprising the Berlin district, are amongst the most flourishing portions of the county, has thus to be sent down a long bay through a difficult entrance, to encounter finally the dangers of an ocean navigation in search of a market, whilst an easy, short, and safe transportation could be readily obtained. To effect this latter object, it has been proposed to connect Trap creek by the St. Martins and Indian rivers, with the Delaware Bay, inside of cape Henlopen. The surveys for this substantial improvement have been made, and its easy accomplishment, at a moderate expense, demonstrated.

The other improvement, solicited by Worcester county – the clearing of the Pocomoke – has likewise been found to be practicable. Viewed in connection with the canal communication just referred to, it acquires more importance than is at first sight apparent. The Pocomoke river rises in an extensive swamp, situated partly in Maryland and partly in Delaware, called the Cypress swamp, from the profuse growth of this valuable timber, by which it is covered. The bed of the river, now obstructed by large trees, lying across it in every direction, passes through the heart of the county, dividing it into two nearly equal portions. Owing to the obstacles presented by the fallen trees into its bed, its downward navigation commences only a few miles above Snowhill, after which it is free for schooners over a distance of about twenty miles, to the mouth of the river in Pocomoke bay, on the Chesapeake side of the county. It has been proposed to remove these impediments as far up as the use of the river is found to be impeded by this cause; and the advantages to be thence derived are shown to be considerable.—It would facilitate the access to a vast body of valuable timber, and to extensive deposites of iron ore of good quality; and by confining the waters of the river within their natural channel, it would effect the drainage of a large tract of land, now an almost impenetrable swamp, covering doubtless a rich and fertile bottom. These are interesting considerations, whose importance becomes enhanced by the fact of the practicability of farther connecting, by a canal navigation, the head waters of the Pocomoke with the St. Martin river, and its projected communication with the Delaware, thus establishing a complete thoroughfare through the county, from one bay to the other.



Martenet's 1865 Atlas of Maryland

But to render this project of internal navigation complete, another improvement seems to be required. The mud flat in Pocomoke bay, already alluded to, forms, as is well known, a serious impediment to the free egress from the mouth of the river, through the sound into the Chesapeake, and the inquiry has been made as to the possibility of removing it. Attention having been turned to the subject, the removal was concluded to be quite impracticable, as well from its nature as from its extent; being the natural effect of causes, that, as they cannot be removed, would be constantly giving rise to the same results. Whatever remedy might be partially applied would be therefore but temporary, very expensive, and would do but imperfectly, what, it is considered, can be accomplished in a more permanent, less costly, and more efficient manner, in another direction, namely: by connecting the Pocomoke with the Annemessex, – a project which has already met with the approbation of the Legislature, and for the performance of which an adequate sum of money has been contingently appropriated.

As this project was brought forward by an honorable Delegate from Somerset, it shows that this county is equally interested in it, as she is in another direction with the proposed connection of the Nanticoke with the Choptank. Viewing these projects connectedly, it will be seen that they are intended to establish an internal communication of some extent, calculated to bring into full operation all the resources of the country through which it will pass, enabling it to send its products to a market by the shortest route, and facilitating to it the means of obtaining the materials necessary for its improvement. Some advantages would likewise be derived from it in case of war, upon which the belligerent spirit of the times compels us unfortunately to calculate as a possible event, by providing against the almost total non-intercourse between one section of the State and another. It forms a part of the duties of the Undersigned to report to your Excellency, that the geological constitution of the country is highly favorable to the easy accomplishment of the projects.

The agriculture of Worcester is not in so favorable a condition as it might be brought to with a little more exertion. The soil is alternately sand and clay, or a mixture of both in variable proportions, and entirely deficient in calcareous matter. On the western side of the Pocomoke, the upper portions of this district that are not swampy, exhibit a succession of sandy knolls and ridges, with occasional basins, as it were, of level land, composed of stiff clay. The growth is principally pine and sweet gum; but on the branches, and in the swamps, there is seen a profusion of alder, maple, magnolia, kalmia, with the cypresses, of which two species were observed, – one deciduous, called the bald cypress, the other an evergreen. Between the Naseongo and Dividing creeks the soil varies from almost pure sand to a sandy loam, rarely, though sometimes clayey: the pine and sweet gum form the principal growth upon it. Along the margin of the river the soil is very sandy.

East of the Pocomoke the country is more swampy, the runs that feed the river being principally on this side. It is covered by a heavy growth of oak and cypress, and when cleared and drained shows a stiff clay soil. On some portions of the newly cleared land a young growth of papaw was observed, and in some places the less auspicious persimmon makes its appearance. Receding from the river the country is gently elevated, forming a low dividing ridge between the feeders of the Pocomoke and the waters of the St. Martin river and Sinepuxent bay. This ridge-land runs north and south, in the direction of the main road through St. Martins, Berlin, and Newark. Sinepuxent neck is a level track of land, with soil varying from sandy to clayey loam, occasionally passing to a stiff clay. The middle portion of the neck is tolerably well wooded; the extreme end, towards South point, has been stripped of its timber. This the Berlin vicinity, and the St. Martin district, are amongst the most flourishing parts of the county.

From Newark, to Snowhill, on approaching the river and town, the soil becomes very sandy; and proceeding southwardly, as far as Newtown, the soil passes over a succession of sand hills, barely possessed of a soil. Towards the extreme end of the county, continuing along the Pocomoke, the country is more level, with a more substantial soil, said to yield good corn crops, and is much better wooded.

Crossing the peninsula in the direction of the dividing line between Maryland and Virginia, the country, at first level, soon appears gently undulatory, with a mixed soil, frequently a stiff clay, to within two or three miles of sea side, when it becomes decidedly hilly; occasionally well wooded with pine, oak, hickory, and dogwood, having a good loamy soil, that could be made very productive in corn and oats. This sea side, as it is called, is an uneven country, stretching along Sinepuxent sound, descending to it occasionally by a gentle slope of extended marshes. The ridge-land, between the sound and river, is more level, soil more clayey and equally improvable, but nowhere in a good state of cultivation.

Sinepuxent bay or sound, to which reference has so frequently been made, forms a very important feature in the physical geography of Worcester County. The Map A. appended to this Report [too faint to use in this article], and furnished for its illustration by the Topographical Engineer of the State, exhibits its actual appearance contrasted with that it bears in the maps and charts now extant. Its condition, as a navigable sheet of water, has been fully described in the "Report of the Commissioners of the States of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, for the survey of the sounds between Cape Charles and Cape Henlopen," submitted last year to the General Assembly of Maryland. For present purposes it is only necessary to consider it as a narrow and shallow sea, interspersed with broken marshes and shoals, composed of oyster shells, mixed with clam, scallop and other marine exuviae. It is interesting in a geological respect, and not a little so, as will immediately be shown, for the agricultural resource which it actually does and can more extensively be made to yield.

It is an interesting fact connected with the past and present condition of Sinepuxent Sound, that since the closing up of some inlets admitting the ocean into it, its waters having thus become comparatively fresh, the oysters and clams, by which they were formerly thickly inhabited, have died, leaving extensive beds of their exuviae. These accumulations of shells, or *oyster rocks*, as they are here termed, seem to point at the manner in

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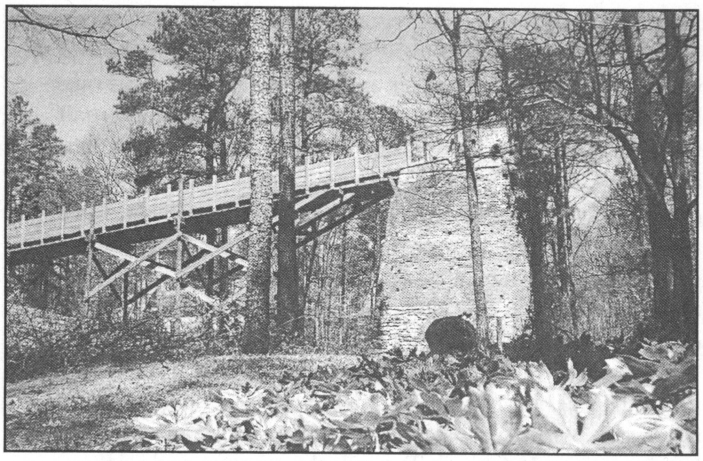


Nassawongo iron furnace at Furnace Town near Snow Hill

which similar deposits, now far inland and constituting the shell-marl deposits of other districts, have been made. They are evidently the quiet and gradual accumulation of years, covered by a deposition of sand or mud, varying, according to circumstances, with the altering condition of the country where they are now found, and in some measure serve to explain the mode of formation of our fossiliferous beds. At no very remote period of time, they will probably furnish the prototypes of a geological formation, hitherto undescribed and characterized by the presence of a new species of zoophytes. In their present state, these oyster rocks afford an abundant supply of a very valuable material, already put to good account, but that ought to be much more extensively employed. They are now dredged, and their contents, consisting of oyster shells, clams and other marine shells, incrusted by a zoophytic production which has received the name of *Bunyan*, are burnt into lime. From this source not only an important and profitable branch of industry is created, but an invaluable product obtained for the improvement of the whole of Worcester county. The question has been asked, whether the lime obtained from this source is good? It may at once be answered, that is as good as from any other quarter; but a more satisfactory reply will perhaps be found in the third section of this report. Indian shell banks also are found on Sinepuxent neck where they have been partially applied, and always with the best results, which ought to be an encouragement to their more liberal employment.

The mineral product of Worcester County is confined to the bog-ore, occurring abundantly on the Naseongo, where it has been worked with variable success, being unfortunately too much mixed with phosphate of iron. As deposit of ore of better quality has been discovered on the Pocomoke, in the fork between this river and Duncan's mill-branch, and it is again met with in the swamps around Newtown.

A more general view of the application that can be made of the knowledge so far acquired, respecting the physical geography of the three counties just described, remains now to be taken.

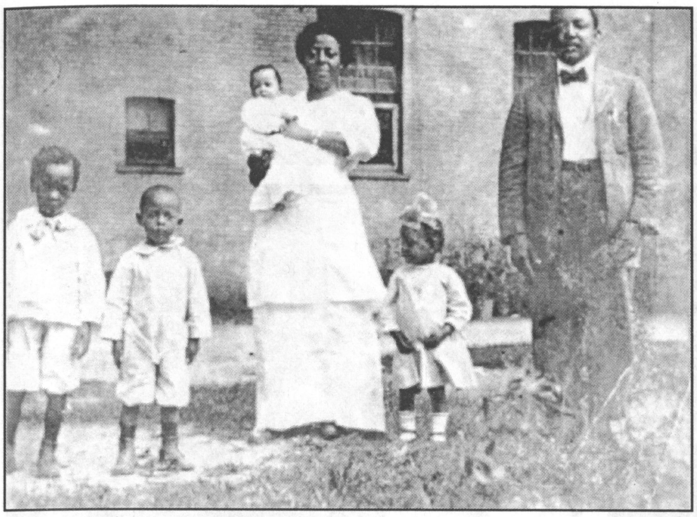
The following obituary was published in the *Delaware Conference Journal: Fifty-Sixth Session* April 9-13, 1919.

Mrs. Mary Roberta Kiah

Mary Roberta Townsend, the daughter of the Rev. G.T. and Malinda Townsend, first saw the light of day at Stockton, Md., March 12, 1880. She was one of several children.

After attending the public schools of the various places where her father as an itinerant minister pastored, she determined to continue her studies, for she had developed a consuming desire to attend school where she could better prepare herself than she could in the public schools. Accordingly, in the spring of 1897 she entered Princess Anne Academy, at Princess Anne, Md., where the quality of her mind and the ease with which she mastered her most difficult lessons soon attracted the attention of her instructors. Her general deportment and scholarship won for her an admiration and respect which ever increased as the days went on. It was here at Princess Anne Academy that she met the Rev. Thomas H. Kiah. There developed between them a strong mutual friendship, which was destined to subsequently have an important effect upon her whole future career. In the year 1898 she graduated from Princess Anne Academy as valedictorian of her class of fourteen. The following year, 1899, she accepted the principalship of Chestertown, Md., public school, which position she held with dignity and grace. In the year 1900 she entered Morgan College, Baltimore, Md., and here it was not long before the strength of her mind with which God had so bounteously endowed her; her perseverance and close application to duty attracted the attention of the faculty, who discovered in her strength of mind above mediocre. She graduated from the preparatory department in 1903 and from the college in 1905 without a peer, for she was the sole graduate this year, making the exceptional average of 98 per cent.

In the summer of 1905 she was selected to travel in the west as leading soprano in a troupe led by Mr. T.R. Parker, A.B., in the interest of the Academy. Her deep, rich mezzo voice won many friends and admirers for her. At the same moment when she was selected to travel and sing in the west she was elected to the faculty of Princess Anne Academy. The impressions of her high moral and religious culture, and of her strong personality still survive in their effect upon her pupils. As time passed, the mutual friendship between her and the Rev. Thomas H. Kiah, who was a promising young pastor in the Delaware Conference, developed into an ardent and abiding love. Accordingly, they



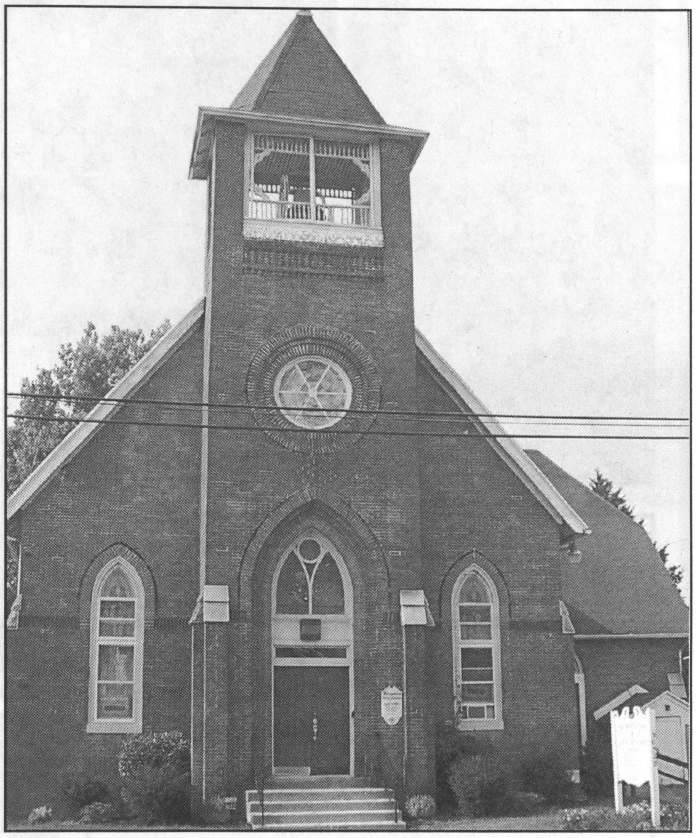
Thomas Kiah family courtesy UMES. (From left) Thomas Waldo, Hamilton Gregory, Randolph McQuay held by Mary Roberta Kiah, Rodelia and Thomas Henry Kiah. (circa 1917)

were united in holy matrimony by the late sainted Rev. Noah W. Moore. This was a happy marriage, and each fully supplied the deficiency in the other. With her husband, "Mame" was the ever brilliant star of his domestic hope; while with her, "Mr. Kiah" was ever the trellis around which the tendrils of an abiding love tenderly entwined themselves, and to them life was one joyous dream. This marriage, which took place in Baltimore City, June 27th 1906, resulted in the blessing of five boys, Brewington, Lycurgus, Waldo, Gregory and Randolph, and an only daughter, Rodelia, all of who survive their mother, many of whose qualities they inherit. As a mother she was sensible and kind; as a wife devoted and true, and entered whole heartedly and effectively into the work and interests of her devoted husband.

They were appointed by the Delaware Conference of St. Michaels (Md.) charge to be the spiritual leaders of the people. Here they established their first Christian home, of which she was the honored queen. They served here five years with dignity and fidelity. From here Rev. Kiah was called to the Principalship of Princess Anne Academy, where she occupied the chair of Latin with such rare dignity and efficiency that all her pupils were inspired by her spirit. She displayed such a familiarity with the old periods of time across magnificent expanses of space into the homes and by the firesides of these ancient masters, where the real Latin life was re-acted, and the otherwise cold and dull Latin sentences were vitalized by the re-incarnation of living men and things about which they told.

She was a profound student of history, and the great scenes which stirred the world; which destroyed and constructed dynasties; which dethroned and enthroned rulers and customs, she so vividly portrayed that these scenes of a thousand years ago passed like a panorama before your wondering view. She was conversant with the live issue of the day, the wonderful present. The "world war"—its courses and possible consummate results; politics; science; religion, etc., were all subjects of her intelligent discussions. She was independent as a thinker, profound, conservative. She was the embodiment of high moral and religious ideals whose impress will ever survive.

Having been trained in a Methodist parsonage, the foundation for a Christian life was laid. Her profession of religion took place at Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, Princess Anne, Maryland, under the ministry of her father, who survives her. In the passing of Mrs. Kiah a great woman has fallen; and an efficient educator has ended her labors. She was an ardent church lover, and her superb, clear, rich, deep, mezzo voice always announced the presence of this elect lady in the choir of which she was an honored member.



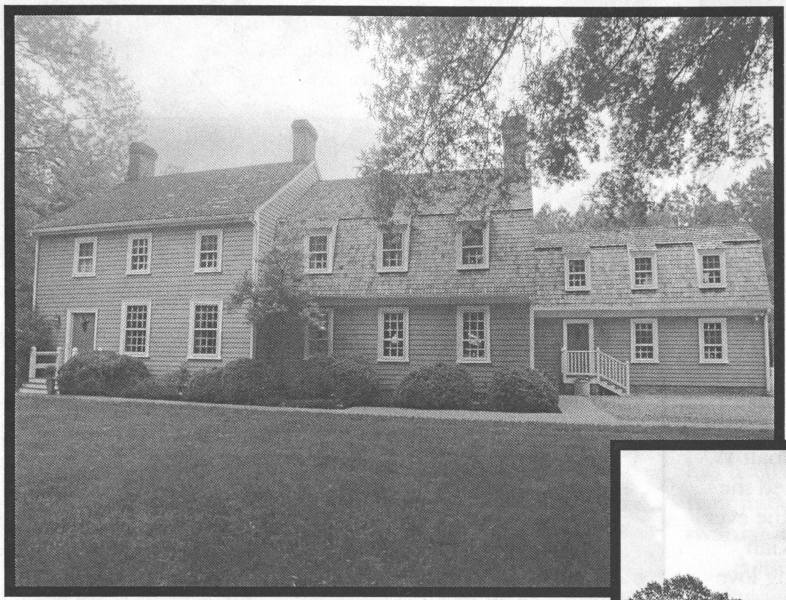
Metropolitan United Methodist Church Princess Anne, Maryland Formerly Metropolitan Episcopal Church Built 1886

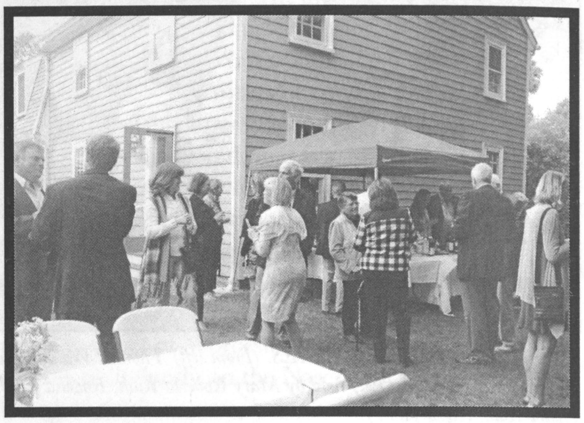
It was Monday evening at 6:45, October 7th, 1918, after her last lines in the drama of life were said; after her last role had been enacted; as the footlights were growing dim and the curtain of life was gradually falling; as the darkness of mystery was shrouding all in its ebon shades; when she had laid aside her terrestrial panoply of earth's conflicts, Mary Roberta Kiah passed off the stage of this life to appear more gloriously in the realities of life which is eternal, of which the surrendered life is the merest prophecy.

– E. Otho Parker

For more information about the Kiah family, visit University of Maryland Eastern Shore's website: www.umes.edu/125/Content/Stories/Thomas-H--Kiah

Harrington House Event





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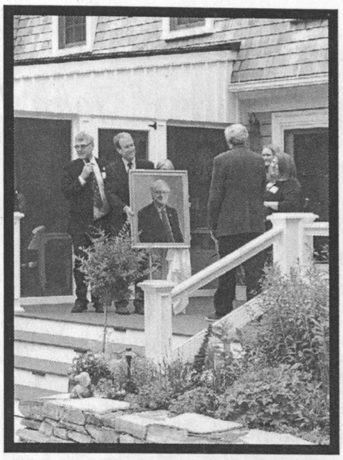
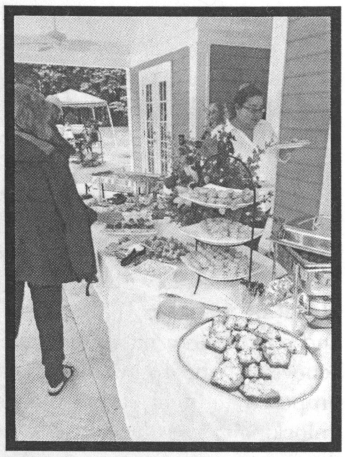
On May 6, the Nabb Center Board held its annual fundraiser to benefit the Nabb Center and support the effort to preserve Delmarva history and culture. Even though the weather kept us guessing and hoping all day, the event was delightful. Regina Bell, Harrington's owner, graciously opened her home for tours, and guests enjoyed the surrounding grounds while sharing refreshments and listening to music provided by a string trio. The Nabb Center staff wishes to express our deep gratitude for all the effort that went into the event.

Harrington is a two-story, four-room frame farmhouse, located in Somerset County, Maryland, estimated to have been built in the 1740s. While the outside of the home has been modified and restored over the years, the interior, including the original paneling and other woodwork, has remained mainly intact. The house is abundant with historical significance, from its structure to its inhabitants.





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A Man, a Plan a Canal:

Digging into the Enterprise of John L. Jaques and the Hurley's Neck Ditch

By Phillip Hesser

The canal boom sparked by the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 most famously echoed over the Delmarva Peninsula with the building of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal in 1829, capping a 50-year period of proposed and realized internal improvements. During the same period, the echoes were heard in Dorchester County, where entrepreneurs proposed and built several canals and "ditches" with the aim of unlocking the resources of the southern marshes and uplands of the county and directing those resources to the county towns and villages. One of these canals – the Parson's Creek & Black Water Canal (later known as Stewart's Canal) – is famous for the light it sheds on Harriet Tubman and her work as a wood chopper and drover of oxen before her trek to freedom. Others – such as Keene's Ditch, where Maple Dam Road enters the Blackwater basin – have left little testimony other than traces on 19th-century maps.

One proposed and likely unrealized Dorchester County project was an 1824 "Canal from Fishing Bay to Nanticoke River" mentioned on the extensive listing compiled by Edward B. Mathews in his discussion of internal improvements for the Maryland Geological Survey in 1898. This canal would never appear on the many Maryland maps also mentioned by Mathews in his essay, but it left a telling, if spotty, history that reveals much about the resources of the southern Dorchester economy, the changes to the landscape caused by tapping those resources, the role in extracting those resources played by interests from the Northeast and the short entrepreneurial life of John L. Jaques.

The first artifact that emerges from this long-buried history is an act passed by the Maryland General Assembly on January 10, 1825, authorizing John L. Jaques "to cut a canal between the waters of Fishing Bay and Nanticoke River." (See Figures 1 & 2.) This canal would be cut "from the head waters of Poco Creek emptying into Fishing Creek to the head waters of Jack's Creek, running into Nanticoke River." The proposed route of this canal can be found on current maps, running from Pokata Creek (a branch of Island Creek, known locally as "Pokety Creek") to Jack's Creek (perhaps named for John Jaques himself).

The legislation added a number of stipulations common in other canal authorizations of the period. John L. Jaques had to obtain the permission of landowners on the canal route and to build and maintain a bridge on the only road crossing the proposed canal route. The act required him to deposit the spoil from digging the canal on both sides of the canal to protect the "marshes and lands" along the canal. Given the amount of spoil removed from canals or ditches of any size to fill them with natural stream and/or tidal flows, this provision would not only have helped to preserve lands valuable for trapping, cutting wood or farming, but it would also effectively have provided for a sort of pathway or towpath along the canal that could be useful for "tracking" any boat or timber along the canal.

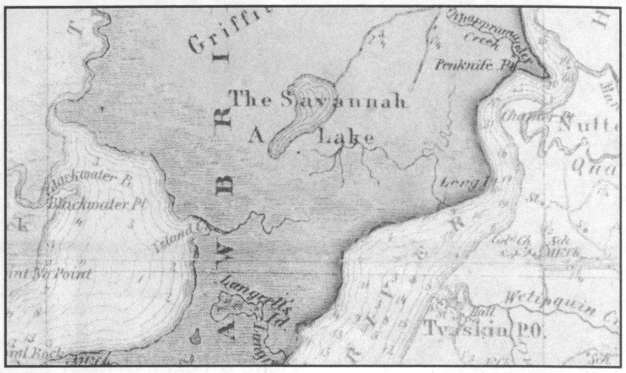


Fig. 1
Location of Fishing Bay-Nanticoke Canal: Detail from Dorchester County in Simon J. Martenet, Martenet's Atlas of Maryland, *1865*

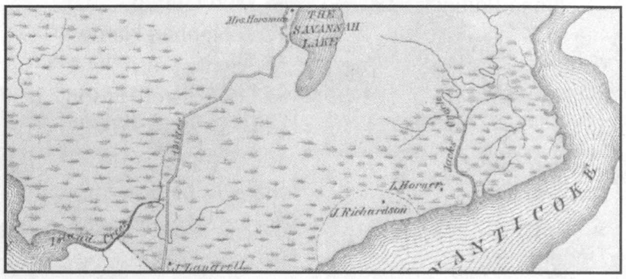
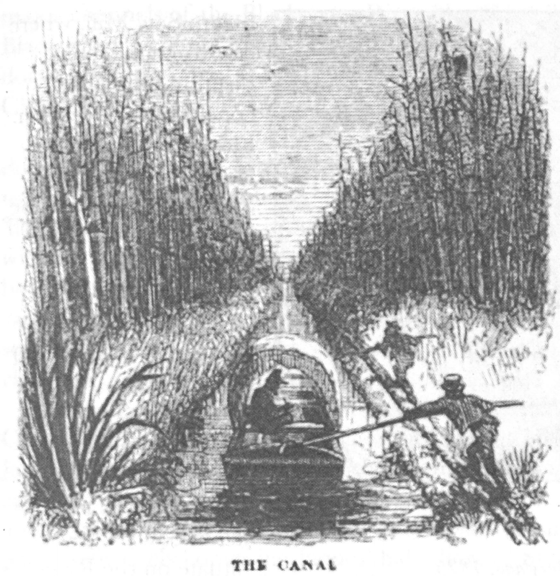


Fig. 2
Location of Fishing Bay-Nanticoke Canal Detail from Drawbridge, Dist. No. 11, from Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, An Illustrated Atlas of Talbot & Dorchester Counties, *1877*

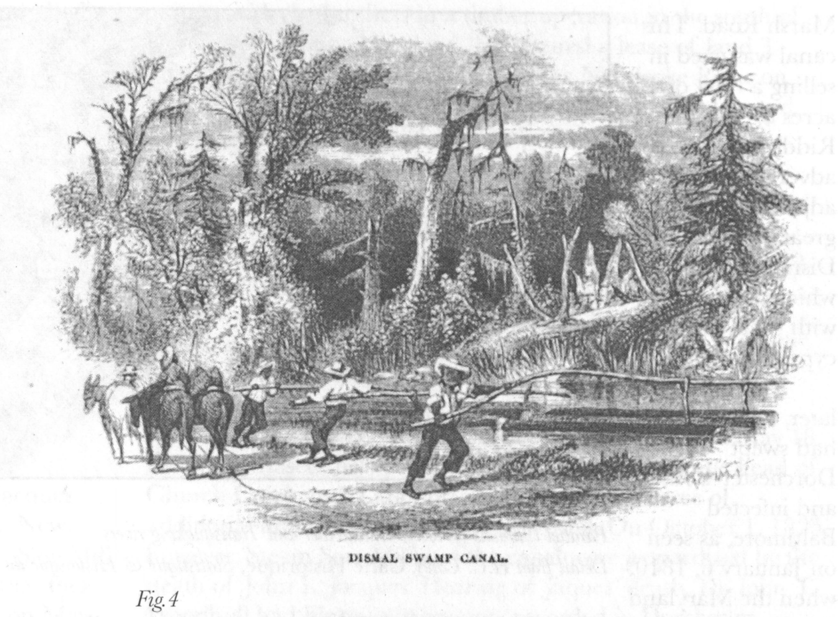
Digging deeper into the story of John L. Jaques yields a reference that sheds light on how the canal would be used. A New York Supreme Court case, The Jefferson Insurance Company v. H. & D. Cotheal, from May 1831 speaks of a related entrepreneurial activity undertaken by Jaques. The case concerned an insurance claim made seven years earlier on Steam Saw Mill, located on the Nanticoke River just south of Vienna, built between June and December 1824 and destroyed by fire in May 1827. John L. Jaques was supposed to have had a half interest in the mill and related properties, but in May 1824, he had conveyed his interest in the enterprise to Dr. John T. Woodhull for surety on his $5,000 investment, to be voided when Jaques paid Woodhull's $5,000 advance. Jaques remained the manager of and presumed shareholder in the mill until October 1825, when he died without having repaid Woodhull, who retained his 50 percent share of the enterprise.

As seen in his involvement as quasi shareholder and manager of Steam Saw Mill, John L. Jaques likely intended the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke River Canal to transport timber to the mill from a broad swath of territory, including Jack's Creek, the



THE CANAL

Fig. 3
Tracking a canal boat on the Jericho Canal
Sketch by "Porte Crayon" (David Hunter Strother), "The Dismal Swamp," Harper's New Monthly Magazine, *XIII.36 (September 1856) 443. He notes that "the tow-path … was nothing more than a line of juniper logs, laid along the bank among the grass and reeds" (Porte Crayon, p. 444)*



DISMAL SWAMP CANAL

Fig.4
Tracking logs on the Dismal Swamp Canal
Woodcut by Edward C. Bruce, "Loungings in the Footsteps of the Pioneers," Harper's New Monthly Magazine, *XX.120 (May 1860) 725.*

banks of the proposed canal itself, Island Creek, Transquaking (known at the time as "Transquakin") and Chicamacomico rivers, and the lands bordering Fishing Bay. This use would be in keeping with the purpose of the Parson's Creek and Black Water Canal, which, as described by Elias Jones in his 1902 *History of Dorchester County Maryland*, was "for the purpose of lightering wood and timber from a large tract of timberland, that the canal also drained."

The area to be served by the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke Canal had significant amounts of timber to bring to Steam Saw Mill. Writing a decade after the authorization for Jaques' canal, J.T. Ducatel, state geologist, indicated in a report to the governor of Maryland that the Hurley's Neck area north of the proposed canal "is well wooded, for the distance of about seven miles" south of Vienna, to the immediate north of the proposed canal route. Noting that wood for fuel would be the "principal article of carriage on [a proposed Choptank-Transquaking Canal]," State Engineer J.H. Alexander in a later report likewise mentioned that "immense quantities could be furnished by the yet untouched forests which shade and encumber the Transquakin [sic]."

Not long after the time of the legislation authorizing the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke River Canal, Peter Guillet, in the 1833 *Timber Merchant's Guide*, warned that in the U.S. "timber even at this time is becoming scarce in accessible regions." Contrasting the availability of timber in the interior with its scarcity near waterways, he commented:

> [T]he present licentious manner of treating our forests, would require a considerable time to destroy them in the interior; but those remaining on the margin of rivers and near cities, where most valuable and useful, will in a very short time vanish before the cultivators of the soil. We shall then be compelled, at an enormous expense, to send far into the country to procure timber for our public works, all which inconveniences are now easily anticipated and prevented.

Writing 50 years after Guillet, Henry Hall also emphasized the quality and attractiveness of Delmarva timber:

> [T]he trees were so tall that the majority of them would yield logs 2 ½ feet square and 60 feet in length without a spot or defect, the moist lands in which they grew and the exposure to the breezes of the sea being particularly favorable to the production of durable timber. Delaware and Maryland white oak became famous more than fifty years ago for its lasting quality and its general excellence … . At least one-half of the face of the country on the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia peninsulas is still covered with a thick growth of oak trees, but nearly all the first growth near navigable water has now been removed.

John L. Jaques would have entertained the notion of digging a canal or ditch to reach timber further removed from easily accessible shorelines of the Bay, rivers or creeks because there had been a long history of examples of such efforts from the Bay and from the county. For instance, he would have known about George Washington's company of Adventurers for Draining the Great Dismal Swamp, formed in 1763. This project involved digging what was to be known as Washington Ditch, a 5-mile, 12-foot-wide canal running from Lake Drummond west to White

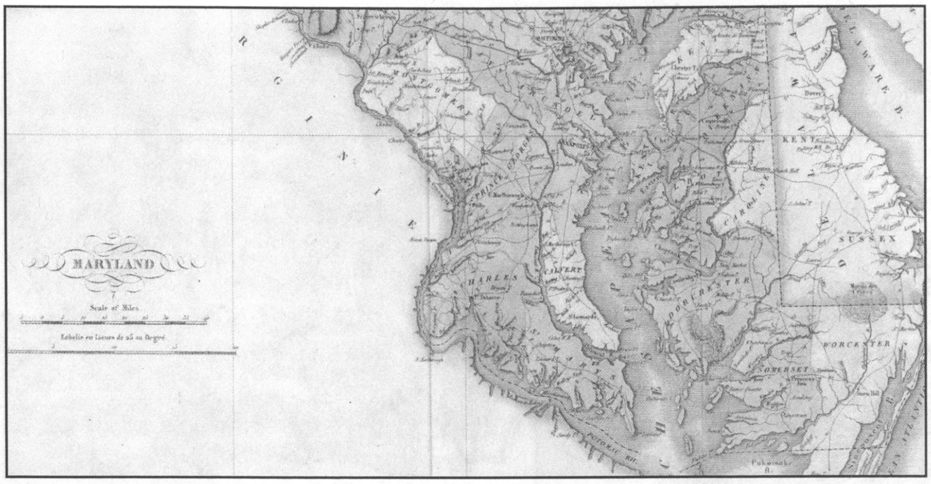


Fig.5
Parallel channels of lower Blackwater and Transquaking rivers
Detail from H.C. Carey, Carte Historique, *Statistique & Historique du Maryland, 1825*

Marsh Road. This canal was cited in selling a tract of 75 acres of Josiah Riddick's estate by advertising it as adjoining "the great ditch in the Dismal Swamp which abounds with great plenty of cypress timber."

Four decades later, canal fever had swept Dorchester County and infected Baltimore, as seen on January 6, 1810, when the Maryland General Assembly authorized 12 citizens of Baltimore to propose a lottery for raising $30,000 for "cutting and opening a canal from the head of Blackwater River to the head of Parson's Creek." The legislation stipulated that the managers of the lottery would register with Baltimore County and lodge in Dorchester County a bond of $60,000, ensuring that the prizes would be awarded to the "adventurers" who entered the lottery and proceeds (less management expenses) would be issued to nine canal commissioners representing the shipbuilders of the Tobacco Stick area and holders of timber lands on upper Blackwater River.

Likely as a result of the disruption of the War of 1812, this act was not implemented and was subsequently annulled and repealed by the legislature in January 1817 due to "it being found impracticable to accomplish the objects contemplated." In December 1821, the *Journal of the House of Delegates* reports another "Act to authorize a lottery or lotteries to raise a sum of money for the purpose of cutting and opening a canal from the head of Blackwater River to the head of Parson's Creek … and for paying for the expenses of a lottery of said canal, repealed in 1816," which apparently did not receive further action.

The story of Steam Saw Mill, as revealed in The Jefferson Insurance Company v. H. & D. Cotheal court case, supplies the basic outlines of a story of a proposed canal that would bring timber from inland forest tracts to the Nanticoke to supply the sawmill upriver near Vienna. However, it leaves many questions unanswered. What was the nature of the investment for Jaques and his partners in Dorchester County? Who were the investors and where did they come from? What happened to the enterprise after John L. Jaques' death and the fire that destroyed Steam Saw Mill?

According to May 1, 1824, Dorchester County records, Michael Fitchett of Dorchester County leased land to John L. Jaques, "late of the state of New Jersey but now residing in Maryland," and Henry & David Cotheal, "merchant[s] of the City of New York" for an annual rent of $40 over a 20-year term. This land would presumably be the future location of Steam Saw Mill, where construction would begin in June and conclude in December. Further information about the location of Steam Saw Mill can be found in the May 6, 1826, issue of *Cambridge Chronicle* announcing a May 15 public sale of the "mill with all appurtenances thereto belonging" following John L. Jaques' death. The notice specifies that Steam Saw Mill was "situate on the River Nanticoke, about three miles below Vienna." This would place the mill near Holland's Landing just north of Point No Point.

This location would also have provided access to timber across the Nanticoke River, as noted in a notice of land for sale by James B. Steele in the *Cambridge Chronicle* of June 3, 1825. Advertising 500 acres of land on Quantico Creek in Somerset County, the notice indicates that the parcel "is heavily timbered, with fine pine and oak," adding that the timber alone would cover one half to two thirds of the purchase price. Most importantly, according to the notice:

> There is as good a landing on the premises as can be desired – from which timber and produce could be taken off with great convenience. Advantageous contracts for timber might be made with the proprietors of Steam Saw Mill on Nanticoke – the distance of water transportation to the mill being inconsiderable.

The next land record related to John L. Jaques and the Cotheal brothers is recorded in a May 18, 1825, deed in which the partners paid $1,700 to purchase part of "Two Brothers" from the estate of Jonathan Spencer, a tract of 383 1/4 acres between the head of Church Creek and Blackwater River. With Steam Saw Mill in full operation, were the partners trying to corner the market on a tract with abundant timber? On the one hand, the land undoubtedly had timber, as reflected in its proximity to (or inclusion in) the Kentuck Forest and in the name "Green's Timber Yard," part of the tract that became "Two Brothers." On the other hand, how would the timber be brought to Steam Saw Mill?

Unless the purchase of the property was meant for investment purposes or meant to be harvested locally and processed by mills in Church Creek or Milton, it probably was acquired for timber to supply Steam Saw Mill – transported perhaps via Little Blackwater River. Ducatel and Alexander's 1834 *Report on the New Map of Maryland*, writing of the "advantages" of a canal connecting the Little Blackwater with Cambridge Creek, indicates that "the basin of the Blackwater … abounds in timber – some of good quality for building purposes – all of excellent growth for fuel." In a period when the two

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major channels of the Blackwater River (the "Little" and "Big" Blackwater) were not distinguished, Alexander's reference no doubt applied to the Little Blackwater, where a proposed Choptank & Blackwater Canal was to be developed.

Whether or not Jaques' proposed canal was still going to be dug, the timber from "Two Brothers" would have to be floated to Fishing Bay and Nanticoke River to reach Steam Saw Mill. The only solution to the problem of moving timber through the winding rivers and creeks of southern Dorchester County would be if the two rivers were "connected by lateral trenches or canals" to create "an improved bed of the Blackwater" – something that does not appear to show up in the maps or channels of Fishing Bay.

One other document, a deed recorded in Dorchester County on October 12, 1825, following the death of John L. Jaques on October 1, enters into the county record the agreement signed on May 29, 1824, between John L. Jacques and Dr. John T. Woodhull, both of Monmouth County, New Jersey, effectively conveying Jaques' half share in Steam Saw Mill and "Two Brothers" property to Woodhull. Assuming that these dates are correct, John L. Jaques likely received capital on May 29, 1824 – before any properties were rented or purchased and any steam mill built – from Dr. Woodhull, so that he could undertake the joint venture with the Cotheal brothers.

Yet, Dr. John Woodhull does not enter the Dorchester record until that October 12 date. Even then, he is still not mentioned in a public notice published in the November 19, 1825, *Cambridge Chronicle*, when Lewis Jaques, administrator of John L. Jaques' estate, calls upon persons having demands on John L. Jaques' personal estate or of the partners of Steam Saw Mill Jaques and H. & D. Cotheal to present their accounts. An announcement of a public sale of Steam Saw Mill by the Cotheal brothers in the *Cambridge Chronicle* of May 6, 1826, also identifies the Cotheals as the only "surviving partners."

Filling in the above fragmentary references suggests a narrative that makes sense of the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke River Canal proposed by John L. Jaques. Perhaps exploiting family connections in New Jersey, Jaques entered into the commercial orbit of Henry and David Cotheal either in New Jersey (where they had land interests related to timber) or in their offices in New York City. Proposing his own business plan or subscribing to that of the Cotheals, Jaques had the opportunity to become a partner with the brothers in a timber operation in the south of Dorchester County, Maryland. He secured a lease of land 3 miles south of Vienna, Maryland, on the Nanticoke River on May 1, 1824, from Michael Fitchett to build a steam-powered sawmill. On May 29, 1824, he obtained capital in secret for some or all of his share of the enterprise from Dr. John T. Woodhull, possibly a family acquaintance in New Jersey, who may have bought land from Jaques family members. In June 1824, Jaques superintended construction of Steam Saw Mill to its completion in December. While doing so, he initiated legislation in Annapolis to cut the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke River Canal, approved by the General Assembly on January 10, 1825, in order to tap the timber lands along the creeks and rivers of the area.

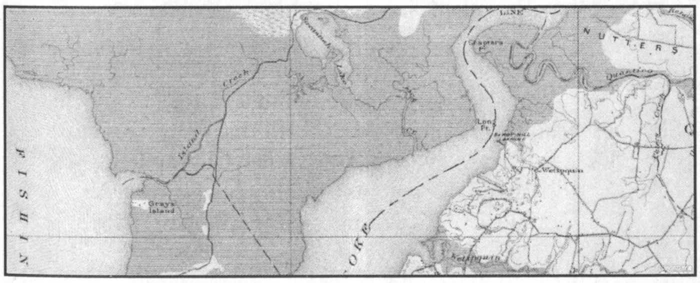


Fig. 6

Broads forming south of Savannah Lake (future Little Savannah Lake), suggesting the possibility – not indicated by earlier maps – that part or all of the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke River Canal was built

Detail from U.S. Geological Survey, Nanticoke Topographic Quadrangle, *1903.*

While managing Steam Saw Mill, John L. Jaques on May 18, 1825, purchased the "Two Brothers" tracts between the head of Church Creek and (Little) Blackwater River, a source of additional timber to be brought to the mill. On October 1, 1825, however, Steam Saw Mill and the canal were jeopardized by the death of John L. Jacques. Hearing of Jaques' death, Dr. John T. Woodhull had his promissory note recorded in Dorchester County on October 12.

By November 19, 1825, Lewis Jaques, brother of John, was in Dorchester County publishing public notices to creditors in order to sort out the affairs of John's personal estate and Steam Saw Mill – ostensibly unaware that Dr. Woodhull had received John's share of the mill and property. A projected May 15, 1826, sale of Steam Saw Mill property apparently did not take place – likely delayed by the discovery of Dr. Woodhull having half of the assets through his loan to the late John L. Jaques.

Perhaps under the supervision of Lewis Jaques, Steam Saw Mill continued in operation until May 15, 1827, when it was destroyed by fire. In the aftermath of the fire, Lewis married Mary Elizabeth Fitchett, daughter and part heir (along with her mother Elizabeth) of the late Michael Fitchett, who had leased the land for the sawmill to the partners. Lewis and Mary Elizabeth perhaps helped Elizabeth Fitchett to maintain her husband's properties as they began their own family, remaining in the county through the period of the 1830 Census. By 1833, Lewis Jaques and family relocated to Baltimore, where they disposed of Elizabeth's land in Dorchester either through sale (February 8) or a trust (March 14). In 1836, Lewis Jacques signed the *Memorial* calling for the mayor and city council of Baltimore to increase their investment in the B&O Railroad – two years before his death.

The final chapter of the saga took place in 1841, when, on October 1, Dr. John T. Woodhull conveyed his interests in the enterprise and on November 25, when Henry and David Cotheal disposed of the "Two Brothers" properties.

Looking back over the history of the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke River Canal and Steam Saw Mill enterprises, several elements related to land, life and livelihood emerge from the now-quiet shore of the Nanticoke River south of Vienna in Dorchester County. It is clear that Steam Saw Mill was a pioneering enterprise – probably the first in Dorchester County and only a decade removed from Dennis Littleton Teackle's Steam Company of Princess Anne, arguably the first steam mill on the

Eastern Shore. During its brief life, it appears to have been a success, attracting customers from Somerset, as well as Dorchester, and probably providing shipbuilding timber to the Cotheal brothers. Sharing the fate of Littleton Dennis Teackle's earlier enterprise, Steam Saw Mill also burned to the ground – apparently not rebuilt (as was the Teackle mill, once it was sold to other investors) and lost to the tides of history.

What is less than clear is whether John L. Jaques' canal project would have progressed if John had not died in 1825. On the one hand, several canals – including the Choptank-Little Blackwater Canal and the Transquaking-Jenkins Creek Canal – made no more progress than the Fishing Bay-Nanticoke River Canal. However, Stewart's and Coursey's canals, latter-day versions of the unsuccessful Parson's Creek & Black Water Canal Company, saw completion in the mid-19th-century, the efforts of individuals who appear to have foresworn corporations and completed the task through their own means. Several short "ditches" (such as Keene's or Cain's ditch, where Maple Dam Road enters the Blackwater River basin) resembled many of the ditches in Dismal Swamp, being dug by entrepreneurs solely for logging out a single, inaccessible tract of timber. These changes to the landscape often eroded and sunk into "broads," strings of shallow and narrow lakes connected by slow moving water courses. For a brief time, however, they served to move a great deal of timber to the sawmills of Dorchester, sustaining a lumber industry that would bring prosperity and livelihood to many Dorchester County residents in various forms through the present.

The spotty history of the Jaques family in Dorchester makes a striking contrast with the histories of the other investors of Steam Saw Mill. Dr. John T. Woodhull supported his career in farming, government and medicine with investments in land – at least one of which reached to Dorchester County. In addition to their investments in shipping to the Caribbean, South America and California, Henry and David Cotheal entered into a partnership in a Dorchester County steam-powered sawmill, whose advanced technology presumably provided a good return as long as the mill lasted. These economic "come-heres" were not the first, nor the last, investors from the Northeast who enhanced their enterprises from the lands or waters of south Dorchester County – ranging from African American Paul Cuffee buying the corn crop of Vienna in the early 19th century to New England oystermen plying the oyster rocks of Chesapeake Bay in the middle years of the same century.

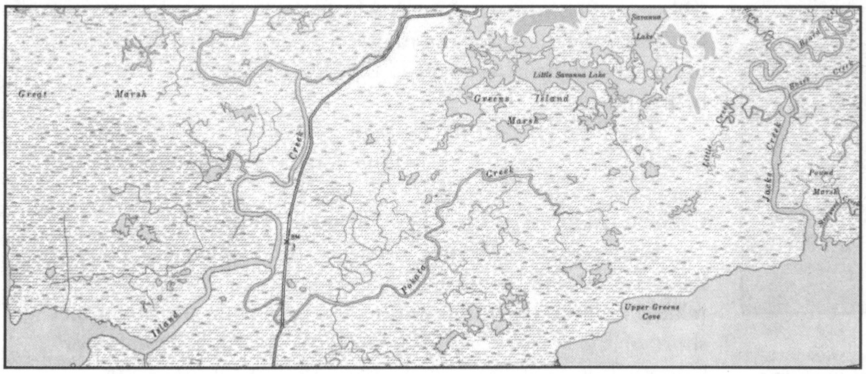


Fig. 7
Broads expanding to form Little Savannah Lake
Detail from U.S. Geological Survey, Nanticoke Topographic Quadrangle, *1942*

The story of Lewis Jaques, emerging from the shadows of history briefly in Dorchester County and Baltimore City, offers fragments of a story of sorrow, enterprise and love. In sorting out his brother's affairs, he met and married the daughter of a man connected with his brother's enterprise and sorted out her family's affairs as well. He was or became an advocate of steam power, possibly managing Steam Saw Mill after his brother's death and in any event advocating continued investment in the technology by the city of Baltimore in the expansion of the B&O Railroad. The rest of the story remains hidden with the exception of his children and grandchildren marrying well, suggesting his ultimate success.

The story of John L. Jaques is even more obscured by shadow – especially in his origins and exact connections to John Woodhull and the Cotheal brothers. It is likely that he was comfortable economically and knowledgeable technologically, pioneering (or at least mastering) steam power and projecting a canal for linking timberlands with Steam Saw Mill – perhaps drawing from an acquaintance with the landscape of south Dorchester that may have led to Jack's Creek being named for him.

What is beyond dispute is the elegiac tone of his obituary in the *Cambridge Chronicle* of October 8, 1825. "Realizing an independent fortune" as the reward of his "industry, energy, and talents," he left with his death "an incalculable loss" to his employees, who received comfort and plenty, as well as constant employment and liberal wages. To his new-found friends, he exhibited an exhaustive listing of good qualities, as seen in the obituary, including equanimity, energy of character, mildness, generosity of heart, intelligence in conversation, dignity and elevation of sentiments and charm of conversation.

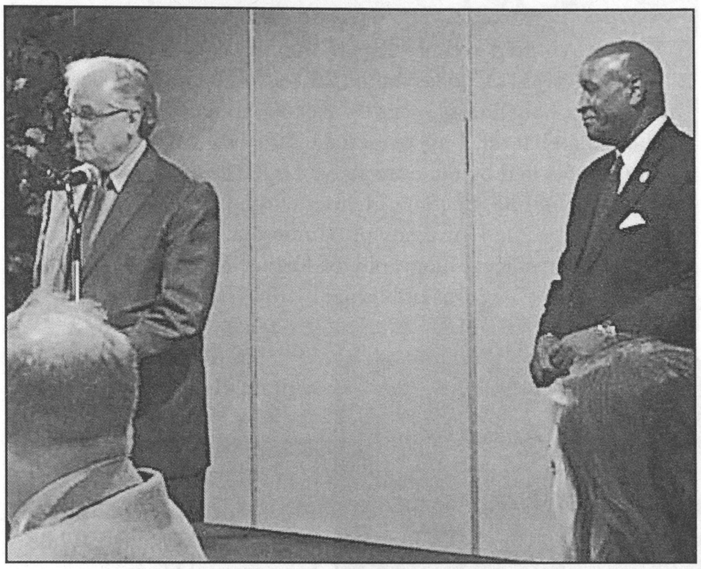
While being "a stranger among us" prior to his arrival in Dorchester County, Maryland, two or three years before his death, John L. Jaques during those few years "commanded the love and admiration of society" in the words of the eulogist. Having shown those qualities, as well as his entrepreneurial imagination, "he died, not among strangers, but among those who knew and appreciated his worth." While largely hidden from history beyond the briefest mention of a plan and a canal, the "faint outline" (as expressed by the eulogist) of what he brought to Dorchester at first glance is as subtle to history as it is to the environment he shaped. Digging deeper into a landscape that inspired both a canal and sawmill, however, suggests the worth that came from an active few years in Dorchester County that changed the land as profoundly as those years influenced his partners, employees and friends.

Phillip Hesser, Ph.D., adjunct professor at Salisbury University and Wor-Wic Community College, writes and lectures about life and livelihood on the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Congratulations to Ray Thompson

By Creston Long, Director

Late in the spring, we received welcome news that the Nabb Center co-founder and former director Dr. Ray Thompson had won two awards recognizing his career-long efforts to promote and preserve local history. The Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council (LESHC) honored Ray with its Heritage Award, which "recognizes an individual or organization for significant and long lasting contributions to the community by interpreting, preserving, promoting, researching, and/or supporting local history and heritage." Ray also won Preservation Maryland's Best of Maryland- Gearhart Professional Service Award, which is "presented to an individual who is employed as a professional by a historic preservation organization, agency or academic institution and who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, knowledge and creativity in the protection and preservation of Maryland's historic buildings, neighborhoods, landscapes and archeological sites." We all congratulate Ray on these well-deserved honors. These awards make it clear that Ray's devotion to the history of Delmarva has left a lasting imprint locally and statewide.



Ray Thompson, Ph.D. (left) receiving the LESHC award at their annual banquet

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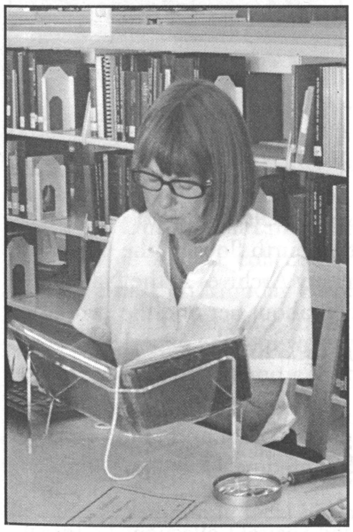
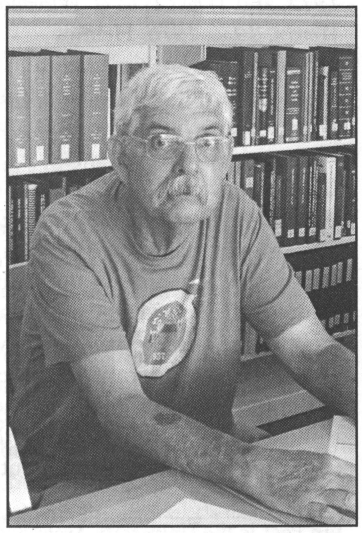
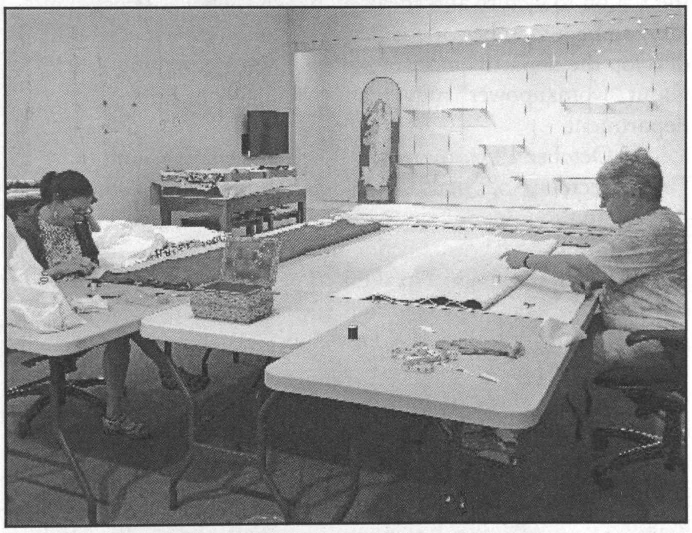
Volunteers

We are happy to welcome Diane Langeler and Neil Keddie as Nabb Center volunteers. Our volunteers assist in numerous projects throughout the year. Projects include transcribing archival documents, assisting with exhibits and assisting with various research requests.







Lee Ellen Griffith and Jane Burt helping to prepare Nabb's current exhibit "Piecing It All Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore"

Womanpower in Education, the Eisenhower Era and Beyond:
The Winifred Helmes Papers

By Ian Post

The Winifred Helmes Papers were transferred to the University Archives in the 2000s, but processing had been halted until recently. Picking up where past archivists had left off, I uncovered a fascinating trove of documents created by the ever-active Dr. Helmes. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1913, Helmes earned her B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her doctoral dissertation, a political biography of former Minnesota governor John Albert Johnson, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 1949.

Winifred G. Helmes

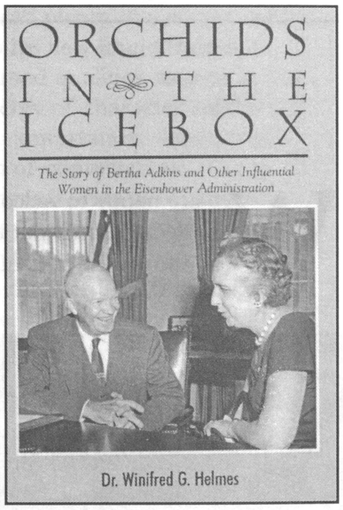
The 29 boxes that contain Helmes' collection are now available to researchers at the Nabb Center and range from her 1931 high school yearbook to her 2005 obituary. While her personal life is highlighted through an abundance of correspondence and her typescript diary, the bulk of the collection documents her professional career from 1954 to 1981.

In the 1950s, she entered the political spotlight as a public servant in the Eisenhower administration. In 1954, she became assistant director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau and travelled to women's organizations across the nation to lecture and speak on panels. She was selected in 1957 to be a member of the Secretary of Labor's special staff to develop the department's Manpower Program, writing articles about "womanpower" and creating publications for the department.

In October 1959, she was appointed special assistant to Under Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Bertha Adkins. In this position, she worked primarily in the area of public affairs, particularly in connection with the under secretary's official relations with educational institutions, national organizations and other groups. She also served as liaison with various agencies of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

As an educator, Helmes started as a teaching assistant at Louisiana State University, then taught history at the University of Minnesota and eventually became a faculty member at Bradford Junior College in 1943, before entering into government work. She served as academic dean at the Foxcroft School in Middleburg, Virginia, from 1961 to 1967 under the school's new head, Salisbury native Bertha Adkins, and from 1967 to 1968 at the Samuel Ready School in Baltimore, Maryland. Later, in 1968, she joined the faculty of Salisbury State College as associate professor of history where she introduced the school's first courses on the history of women before retiring in 1981. Moreover, beginning in 1973, she initiated and organized three annual Eastern Shore Conferences on Women.

Helmes was also an advocate for women's equality and directed the Status of Women program while on the executive staff of the American Association of University Women from 1951 to 1954. She remained active with the AAUW as a member of the Maryland State Division Board, president of the Salisbury branch, and membership on the Educational Foundation, Communications Advisory and Bertha Adkins Fellowship Committees. Furthermore, she was a national consultant for the Women's Archives at Radcliffe College (now the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America), served on both the Virginia and Maryland Commissions on the Status of Women, and was a member of the Maryland Humanities Council.


ORCHIDS
IN THE
ICEBOX

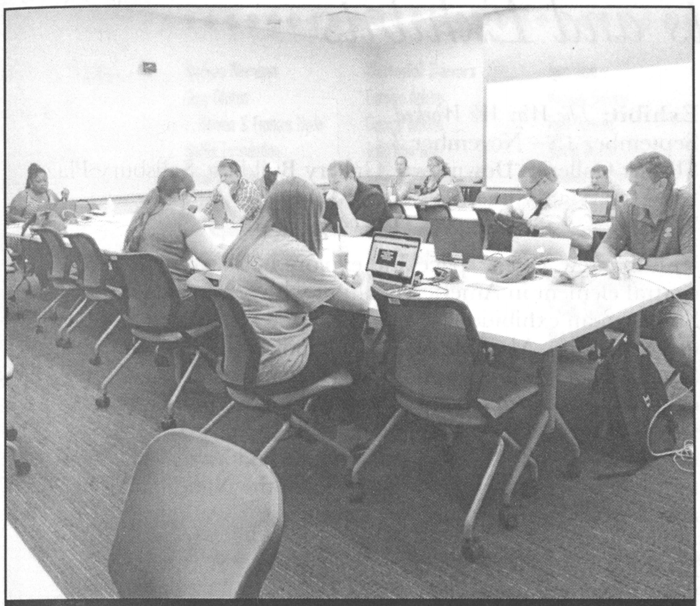
The Story of Bertha Adkins and Other Influential Women in the Eisenhower Administration

Dr. Winifred G. Helmes

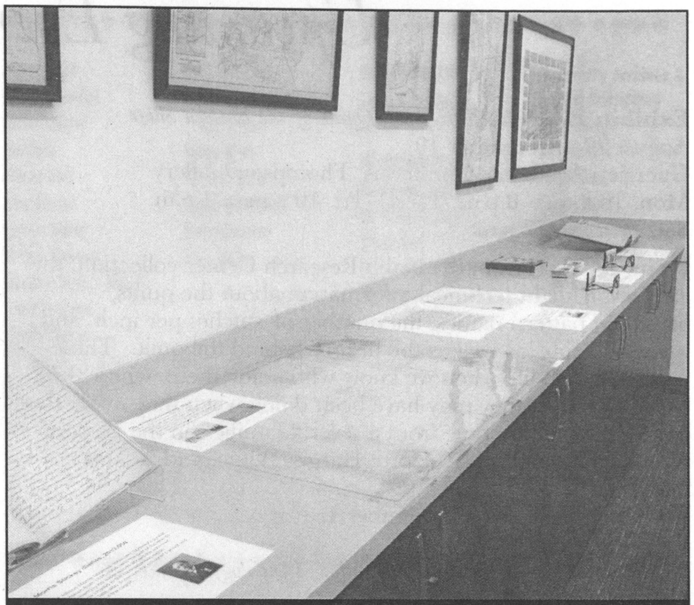
Helmes wrote frequently and was published throughout her lifetime. She received a grant from the Maryland Bicentennial Commission to edit *Notable Maryland Women*, in addition to directing a two-year project involving Maryland AAUW branches that led to *Who's Who of Maryland Women, 1930-1976, Baltimore County Women, 1930-1975*, and *Who's Who of Wicomico Women, 1930-1976*. Helmes published one last time before passing away in 2005, which was perhaps her most memorable written work – *Orchids in the Icebox: The Story of Bertha Adkins and Other Influential Women in the Eisenhower Administration.*

Helmes' papers are here on the fourth floor of the Guerrieri Academic Commons in the University Archives at the Nabb Center. They reveal key information about her and the people around her, and they provide a window into the experience of working in the federal government at a time when barriers stood in the way of many women. The papers also illuminate how her work advocating for women in the work place and in the field of education continued throughout her lifetime.

Ian Post is the University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Salisbury University.



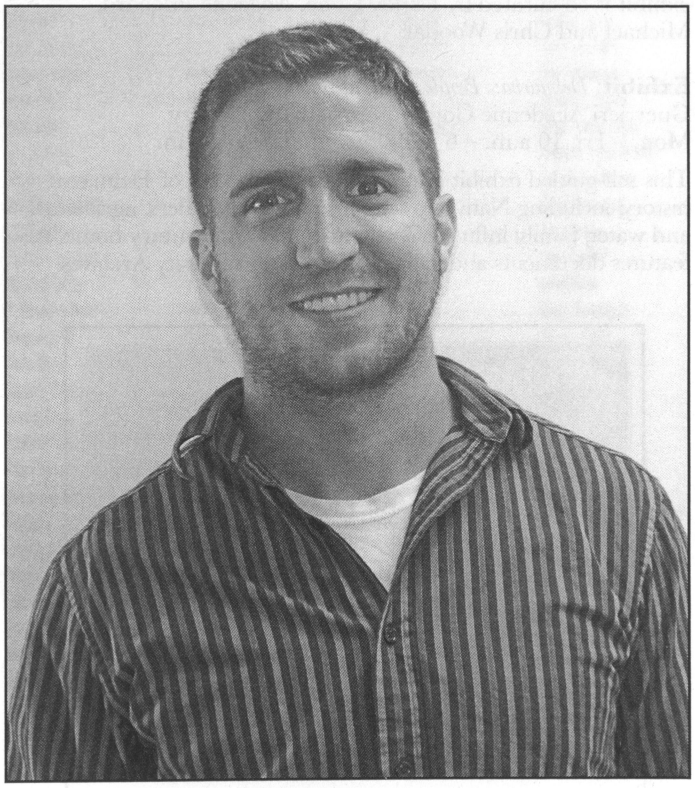
Some participants in Maryland Humanities Summer Teacher Institute at Salisbury University held at the Nabb Center in July.



Some of the Nabb Center's and the Library's Special Collection primary resources used for instruction for Institute.

Farewell to Graduate Assistant Joel Henry

The end of the school year usually involves a time of farewells. This year, Joel Henry completed the requirements for his master's degree in history. Joel served as a graduate assistant at the Nabb Center for four semesters. During that time, he assisted with the processing of several large archival collections and he often staffed our reception desk on Monday evenings and on Saturdays. Joel was always a positive presence in the Nabb Center, ready to assist other staff members and our patrons. He balanced his duties at the Nabb Center and the rigors of his academic work with a love of Salisbury University rugby. His immediate plans involve working in his family's insurance business in Frederick, Maryland, where he also plans to become involved in groups devoted to preserving local history. We all wish Joel the very best in the future and we hope that he visits often.



Upcoming Events and Exhibits

Exhibit: *Piecing It All Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore*
August 28 – December 19
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Thompson Gallery
Mon. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Tues. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

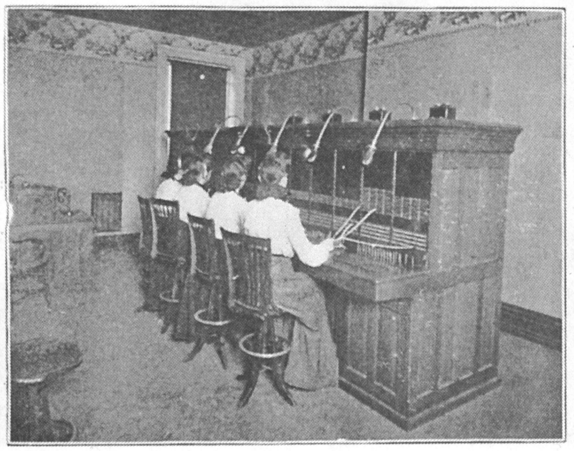
Featuring quilts from the Nabb Research Center collection, the exhibit highlight technical information about the quilts, including pattern names, the number of stitches per inch, and types of fabric, as well as the history behind the quilt. These quilts come to life when we know who made them, where they lived, and what they may have been doing when they made these quilts. The quilts come from a several families on the Eastern Shore, including the Lankford, Hargis, White, and Adkins families.
See related lecture on November 4.

Exhibit: *Our Transdisciplinary World: Technology, Science, & the Humanities*
August 28 – December 22
Guerrieri Academic Commons, 1st Floor Lobby
Building's operating hours

Some of the ways technology is being developed and utilized on the Salisbury University campus are featured, including the 3D printer MakerLab, a software program that analyzes the emotional content of Shakespearean plays and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Interactive digital displays and information about how to get hands-on experience with these technological developments are also included. This SU Libraries exhibit is co-curated by Randy Cone, Angeline Prichard, Michael and Chris Woodall.

Exhibit: *Delmarva: People, Place & Time*
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Niemann Gallery
Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

This self-guided exhibit highlights various aspects of Delmarva history, including Native Americans and early settlers, agriculture and water, family influences, and an early 19th century home. Also features documents and artifacts from the University Archives.



THE BUSY TELEPHONE EXCHANGE.

Exhibit: *The Way We Worked*
September 15 – November 3
SU Art Galleries Downtown, Gallery Building, Salisbury Plaza
212 West Main Street Salisbury, MD
Wed. – Fri. 2 – 7 p.m. Sat. 12 – 4 p.m.

Visit the new gallery space and explore how work has become a central element in American culture with a traveling Smithsonian exhibition developed by the Nation Archives. Part of Museum on Main Street – a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Maryland Humanities – this exhibition traces the many changes that have affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years, including the growth of manufacturing and increasing use of technology. The exhibition draws from the National Archives' and the Nabb Center's rich collections.

Environmental Studies Colloquium
Wednesday, September 20, 7 p.m.
Conway Hall 153

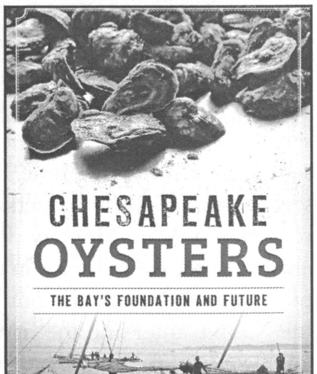
Jeff Kirwan, emeritus professor and Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation extension specialist, has spent his career conducting research on indigenous ecology and cultural landscapes, particularly on Delmarva. A member of the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians on his native Eastern Shore of Maryland, he shares an overview of his findings on how indigenous peoples have managed the landscapes of Delmarva. Co-sponsored by the Nabb Research Center.

Lecture: *Maryland Quilts in the MESDA Collection*
Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Academic Commons, Assembly Hall

Jenny Garwood from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, discusses the Maryland quilts in the MESDA collection. A quilt turning featuring quilts from Nabb's collection and a second presentation "Maryland Samplers in the Chesapeake Tradition" are also included. See related exhibit.

Lecture: *Chesapeake Oysters: The Bay's Foundation and Future*
Wednesday, November 29, 7 p.m.
Guerrieri Academic Commons, Assembly Hall

Kate Livie, associate curator at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, discusses the history and future of oysters in the Chesapeake. Based on her book *Chesapeake Oysters: The Bay's Foundation and Future*, winner of the Maryland Historical Society's 2016 Brewington Book Prize. Co-sponsored with the Environmental Studies Department and Fulton School.



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"Piecing It All Together: Quilts of the Eastern Shore" Exhibit